SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

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カバーイラスト・構成・装幀
カバーデザイン＆和figure下デザイン＆撮影

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Ken has gone to rendezvous with Mori Yoshinari, who defends Mount Usa Castle, a strategic position on the road connecting Nobunaga's headquarters at Gifu and his current battle line in Osaka. However, Mori and his mere three thousand troops are caught in a desperate skirmish against Azai and Asakura's allied force of thirty thousand. Ken tries his best to stop him, but Mori seems determined to engage in battle for Nobunaga!

美味しいコミック、召し上がれ！
HOUBUNSHA COMICS

百円中の美味しいケーキがここにある。本邦初のケーキ漫画!
アニマのケーキ
山口ふしみ/原 原作/花形 怜

老舗茶舗の跡取り息子という異色の珈琲バイヤーが大活躍!
コーヒーブシ
ひらまつみさお 原作/花形 怜

召し上がれ、対し裏! 知られざる日本茶の魅力をポップに凝縮!
茶林倶楽部
青木亭子

つぼみ食べてごはんな。 昆布アイヌアレンピピー好やろ?
風流つまみ道場
ラズウェル細木

ペットと人をつなぐネコ医マンガ
日曜日は、ネコごはん
山本晋子

おもてでしのびを愛し続く、食の鉄・匠子がやアルフーマンに!
匠の味
出名俊道 原作/西ゆうし

従業作家の初シェフ漫作。風変わりな人々のふしぎを食堂!
ふしぎごはん
河内遥

カフェのスペシャリスト、パリスク。若き店舗職人の成長譚
パリタク
むらなが伸来 原作/花形 怜

インターネットからでもコミックスが購入できます!
http://shukanmanga.jp/

『信長のシェフ』第6巻は雑誌連載『MEGS』に掲載された作品を収録したものです。

信長のシェフ

原作 西村ミツル　漫画 梶川卓郎

A CHEF OF NOBUNAGA

STORY BY MITSURU NISHIMURA
COMIC BY TAKURO KAJIKAWA

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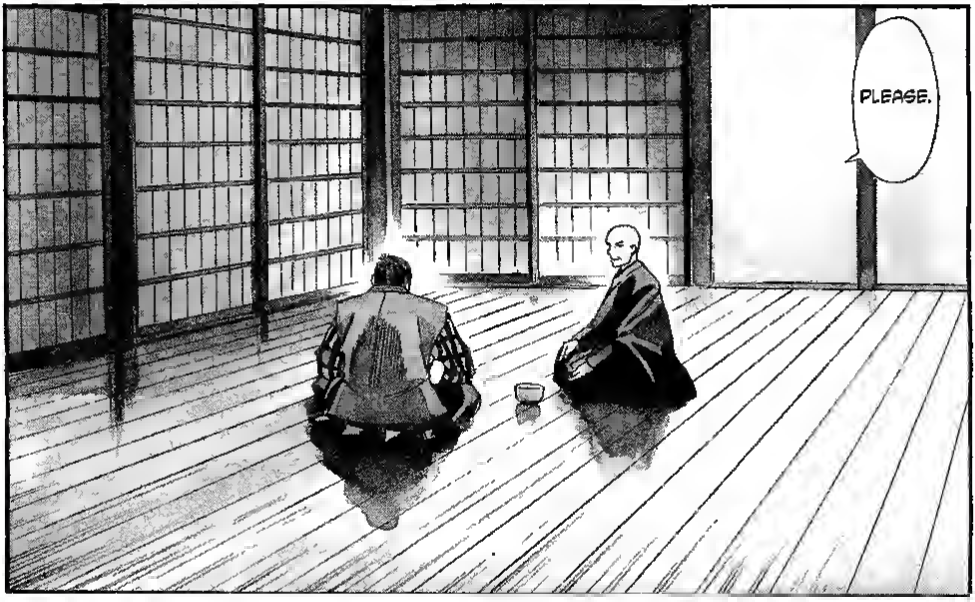
*This story is a work of fiction and does not always accurately reflect history

THE BATTLE AT YODO RIVER ENDED IN OUR VICTORY
KENNYO... ARE YOU FINISHED ALREADY ...?
THE ISHIYAMA HONGAN-JI HAVE RETREATED TO THE ISHIYAMA FORTRESS AND HAVE TAKEN UP DEFENSIVE POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR A SIEGE.
SFX Swip
HUH? NO...
IN OTHER MATTERS, HAVE WE RECEIVED ANY ENVOYS FROM YOSHINARI AT MOUNT UGA CASTLE YET?
STRANGE... A MAN AS RESPONSIBLE AS HE WOULD BE SURE TO SEND WORD...

Chapter 44 At the End of the Road

SFX: Swish Swish Swish Swish



AND WHAT DO INTEND FOR KEN...?
PLEASE LEAVE THIS PLACE AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A CHANCE.
I AM LEAVING THE CASTLE'S DEFENSES TO RETAINERS MUTOU AND HIDA.
SFX Gulp
...
I WORRY, SINCE HE IS A MAN WHO IS KIND TO A FAULT...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF KEN.
YOU HAVE JUMPED STRAIGHT TO THE CRUX OF THIS MATTER.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...

I PRAY THE GOD OF WAR GRANTS YOU LUCK.
I SEE ANOTHER MAN KIND TO A FAULT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME THOUGH...

ジャラ

SFX Rattle

MOVE OUT!

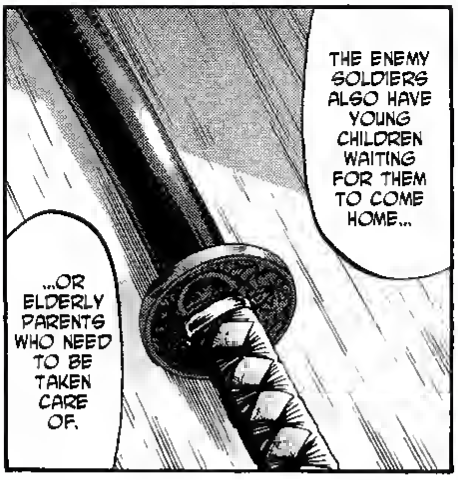
SFX Raoooar
...MORI YOSHINARI MOBILIZES ONCE MORE.
ON SEPTEMBER 19TH...
...THE IKKO FACTION...
...AND THE WARRIOR MONKS OF THE ENRYAKU TEMPLE AT MOUNT HIEI.
FACING HIM ARE THE ASAKURA AND AZAI ALLIED FORCES...
A COMBINED FORCE OF THIRTY THOUSAND MEN.

SFX Waaaaah!

KEN, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
I'M JOINING THE FRAY TOO.
SEN-SAMA, YOU SHOULD ESCAPE THIS CASTLE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

SFX: Strap

BEFORE A CHEF, I'M A MAN.
YOU ARE JUST A CHEF...
YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM MORI-SAMA TO STAY IN THE CASTLE.


THE ENEMY SOLDIERS ALSO HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN WAITING FOR THEM TO COME HOME...
...OR ELDERLY PARENTS WHO NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO ACCOM-PLISH?

ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU HAVE THE RESOLVE TO SLAUGHTER THOSE MEN?

THOSE WITHOUT RESOLVE...
...WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN BY MORI-SAMA FOR GETTING IN THE WAY.

SFX Roaaaaar
ANYONE WHO WISHES TO DIE, COME AND FACE ME!
BATTLES ARE WON WITH BRAVERY, NOT NUMBERS!
PUSH THEM! PUSH THEM BACK!
SFX Slash
YOU WALK THE PATH TO HEAVEN!

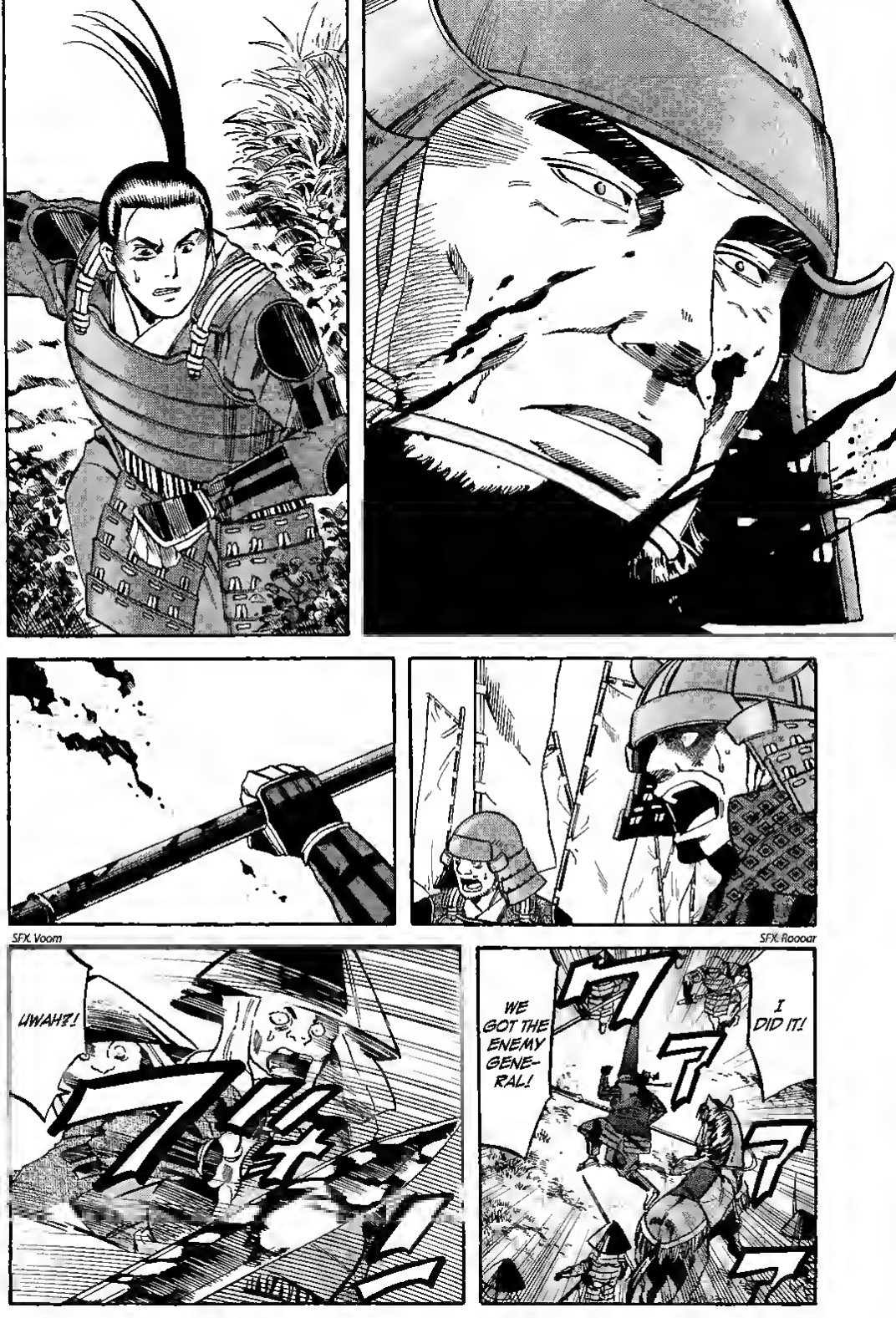
SFX. Waaoh
THE ENEMY HAS MADE A SPEAR HEAD FORMATION AND IS PUSHING BACK ASAKURA KAGEAKIRA'S FORCES.
MY LORD!
BUT WE SHALL NOT LET THEM LAST ANY LONGER.
AS TO BE EXPECTED OF NOBUNAGA'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, MORI YOSHINARI ...
TO THINK THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PUSH US BACK DESPITE OUR OVERWHELMING NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY, WHICH SHOULD BE SAPPING THEIR MORALE.
SFX Rooooaaar
SPLIT INTO TWO UNITS...
AND PRESS THEIR FLANKS!

SFX Drip
ピチョーン
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY, SEN-SAMA-- YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BRING MYSELF TO JUST SIT HERE IDLY...!
BUT STILL...
PLEASE BE ALRIGHT...
MORI-DONO...
ガ!!!
ガ!!!
SFX Whoosh

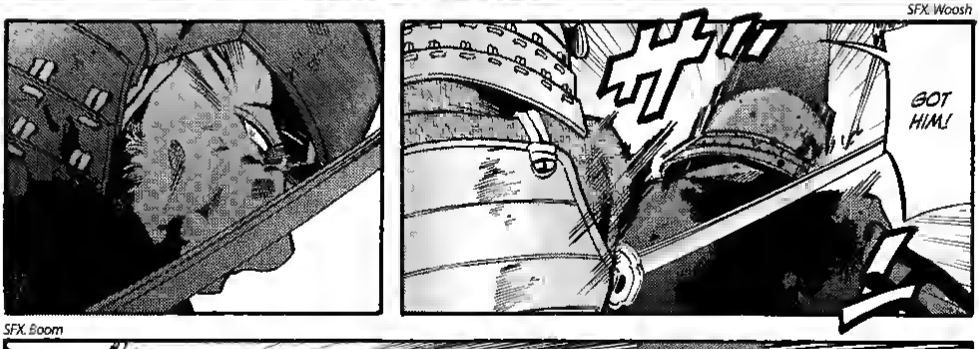
SFX Waaah
GYAH...!
GWA-AH!
FROM OUR FLANKS...
DO NOT RE-TREAT!
CARVE YOUR NAMES INTO THIS LAND WITH BLOOD!

SFX Waaaaaaaaah
SFX Slice
SFX Crrk
Nrgh ...!
SFX Spurt
AOCH!!

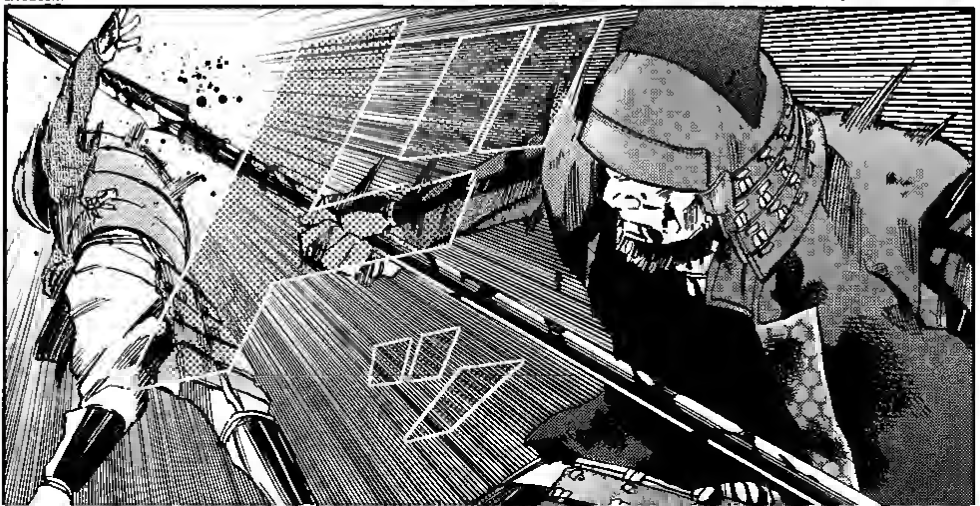
SFX: Thwok


SFX: Voom
SFX: Roooar
UWAH?!
WE GOT THE ENEMY GENE-RAL!
I DID IT!

SFX. Woosh

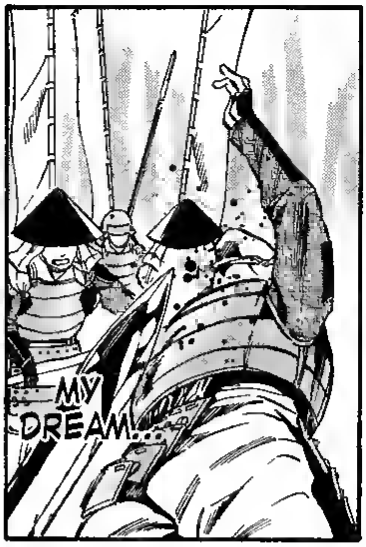


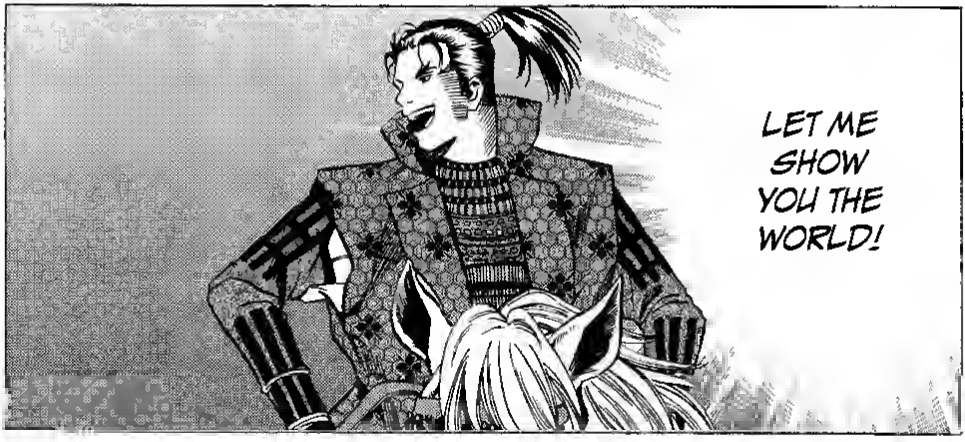
SFX. Boom

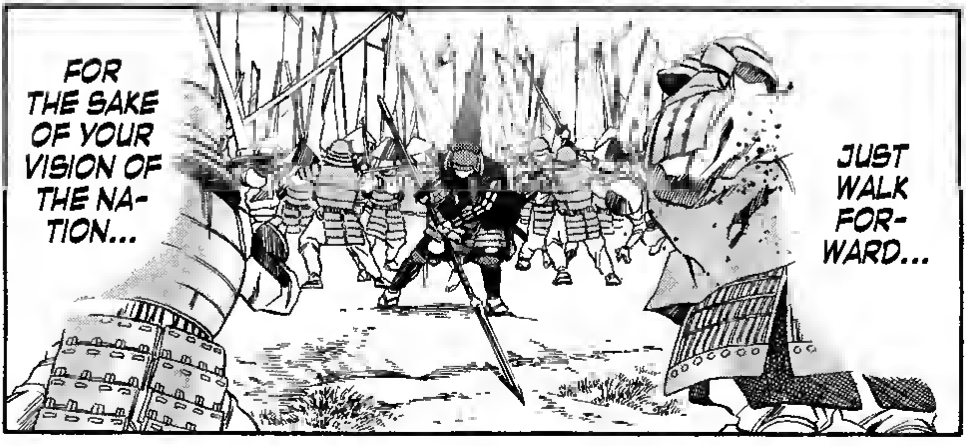


MORI-SAMA!
THIS GUY IS A MONS-TER!
MY LORD...
YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH ME.
WHAT IS WRONG, YOSHI-NARI?
MY LORD...

...THAN YOU YOURSELF.
...WAS NOTHING OTHER...

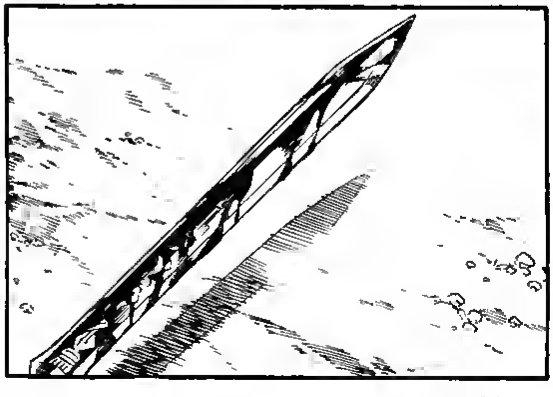

MY DREAM...


LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORLD!

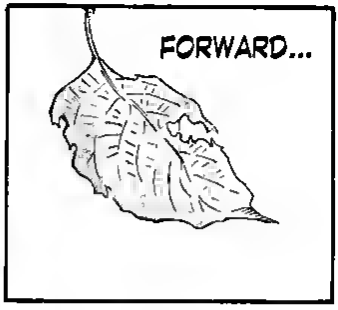

FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR VISION OF THE NATION...
JUST WALK FORWARD...

JUST AS YOU WOULD WISH.
WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BACK...

SFX. Splurt



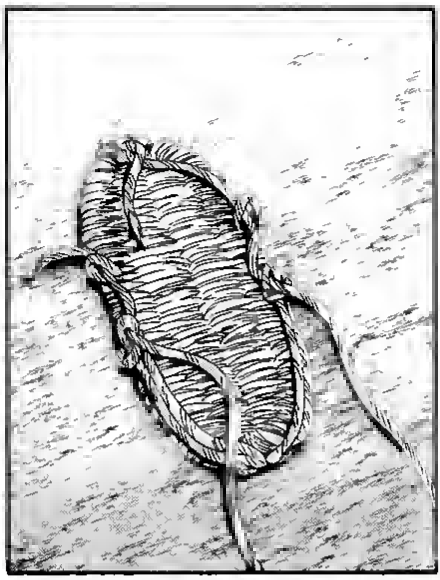
JUST LOOK FOR-WARD ...


FORWARD...

SFX Roooar

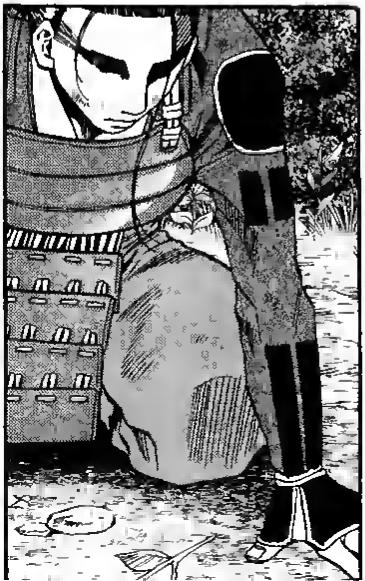
Chapter 45

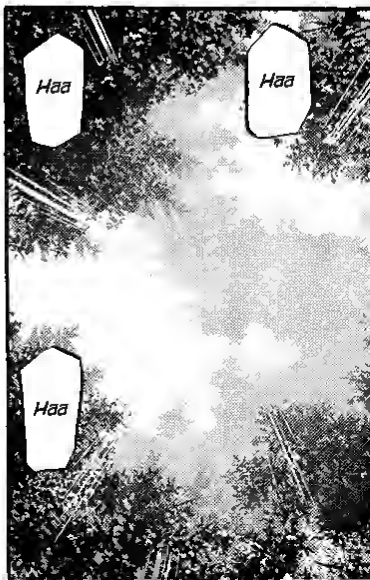
HAH!
HEIYAH!
SFX Snap
SFX Roll
YAAH!
SFX Woosh
Ugu-gu...
Ow-ow...
HEY, HEY, YOU ALRIGHT THERE?
IF YOU ACT LIKE THAT, YOU WILL DIE BEFORE YOU EVEN FINISH YOUR FIRST BATTLE, LIKE OUR ELDEST BROTHER YOSHITAKA.
Mori Yoshinari's second son
MORI KATSUZOU (NAGAYOSHI)



SFX Tumble

SFX Snap





SFX. Kuaaaah

Chapter 45 The Smell of the World

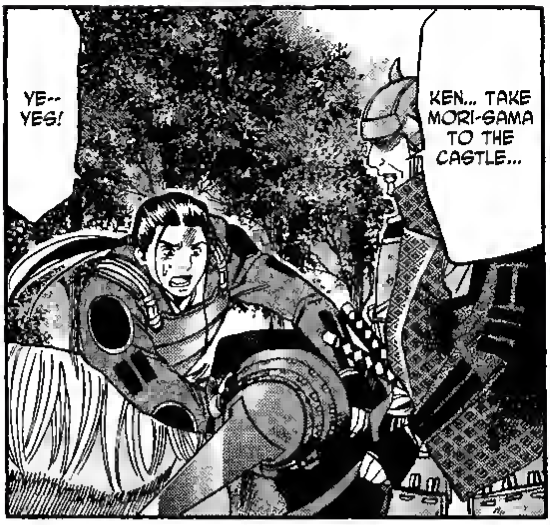
SFX Huh
MINE! HIS HEAD IS MINE!
SFX Stomp

DO NOT THINK FOR A SECOND THAT WE SHALL HAND OVER MORI-SAMA'S HEAD TO THE LIKES OF YOU!
WOAH!

GUOH ?!
SFX Thunk
MORI-SAMA!
MORI-SAMA!
SFX Slice Thunk
Gi...
Gyah...
PLEASE... TAKE MORI-SAMA AND FLEE, QUICKLY ...!
BITOU-SAMA! LEAVE THIS PLACE TO US!

SFX Dash
AS IF I WOULD LET YOU!
I SHALL TAKE THAT BLOODY GENERAL'S HEAD!
HOLD ON!
ドドド
PLEASE ...!
Haa
Haa
SFX Swoosh
WHERE'S THE BASE OF THE HILL...?
Haa!

MORI-
DONO!

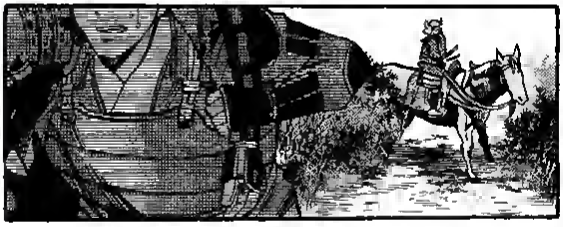

YE--
YES!
KEN... TAKE MORI-SAMA TO THE CASTLE...

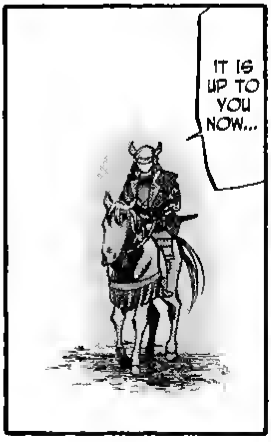
タッタッ

SFX. Dash

I LEAVE MORI-SAMA... TO YOU.
I... AM RETURNING TO THE BATTLE.

WH--WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO...?!




IT IS UP TO YOU NOW...

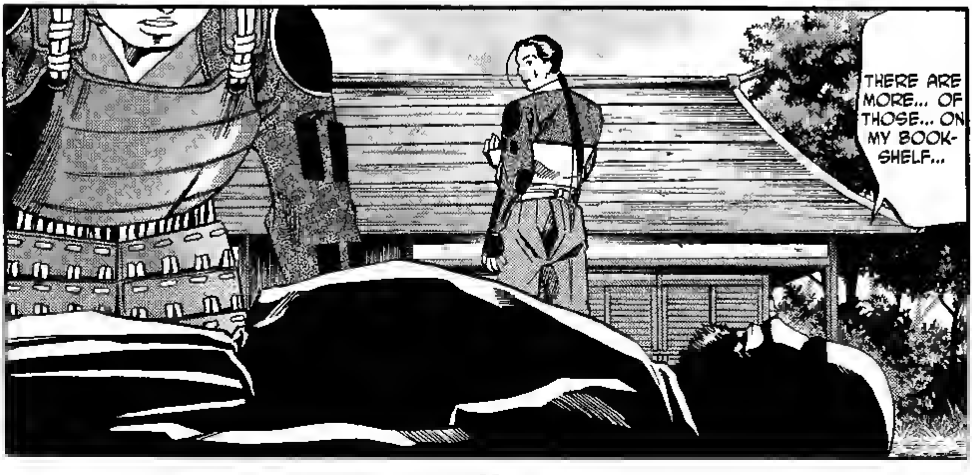
MORI-DONO, HANG IN THERE!
YES... YES!

SFX. Clatter
...!
SFX. Clack Clack
Hah
Hah
Hah
SFX. Ba-thump Ba-thump Ba-thump
YOU CAN'T!!
PLEASE DON'T BLEED SO MUCH...!

SFX Waaah
QUICKLY!
SOMEONE, ANYONE, GET A STRETCHER!
MORI-SAMA!
SFX Shiwuck
WITH THESE WOUNDS, HE IS ALREADY...
Uuu-gh...

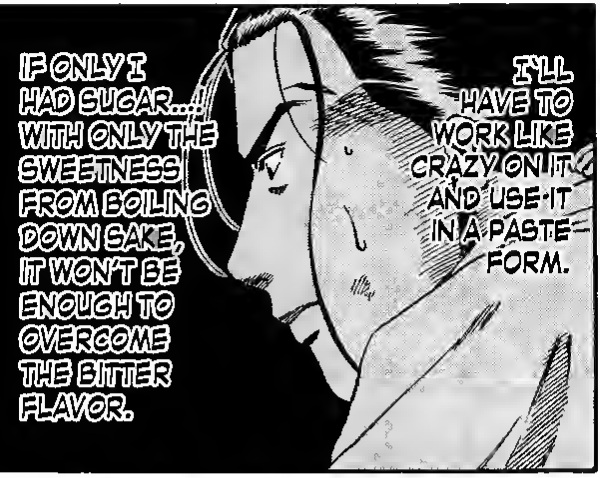
WHAT'S THAT?!
IN... SIDE ...
MORI-DONO ?!
KE... N...
INSIDE THE POUCH... BEANS...
SFX. Tumble
BE... ANS?
ミシッ

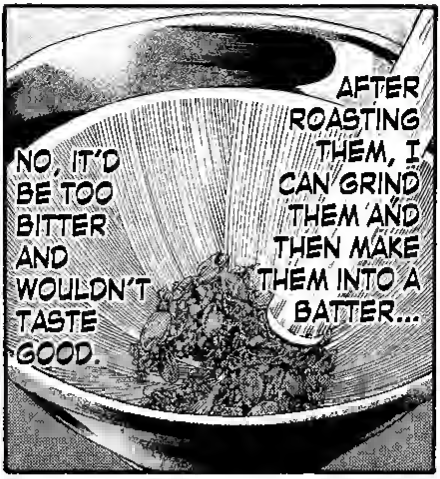
ARE THESE.... COFFEE BEANS ...?!
NO, THIS IS COCOA!

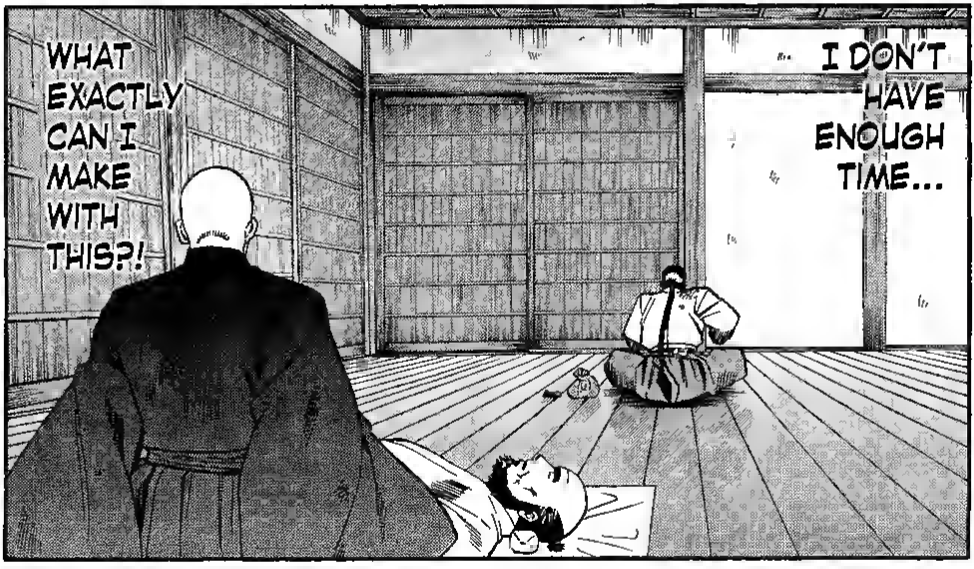

THERE ARE MORE... OF THOSE... ON MY BOOK-SHELF...

THE LORD... GAVE THEM TO ME... LONG AGO...
...AND I HAVE LONG... WISHED TO... KNOW WHAT THEY TASTED LIKE...
CAN YOU... MAKE ANYTHING FROM THEM FOR ME...?
MORI-SAMA! WITH YOUR BODY LIKE THIS...
Ble-gh...
カッ
Cough
Ugh...
Ah, NOOO!
SFX: Splurt
I UNDER-STAND! I'LL MAKE SOME-THING...
I'LL DEFI-NITELY MAKE SOME-THING...
SO PLEASE WAIT FOR ME!

SFX. Grind Grind
SFX. Grind Grind
DRIED COCOA BEANS ...
THEY HAVE A DISTINCTIVE BITTER AND ASTRINGENT TASTE, SIMILAR TO MEDICINE.
AS AN INGREDIENT THEY CAN BE VERY GOOD, BUT HOW EXACTLY CAN I PREPARE THEM RIGHT NOW?!

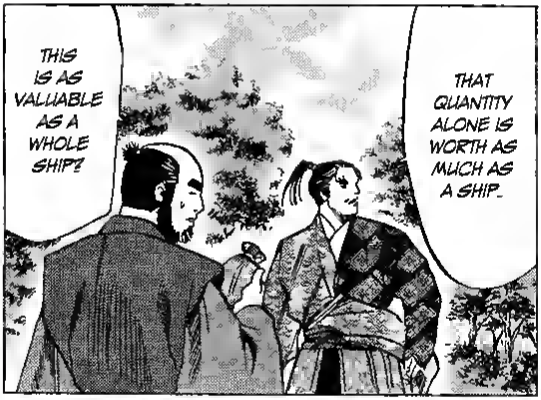

IF ONLY I HAD SUGAR...! WITH ONLY THE SWEETNESS FROM BOILING DOWN SAKE, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE BITTER FLAVOR.
I'LL HAVE TO WORK LIKE CRAZY ON IT AND USE IT IN A PASTE FORM.

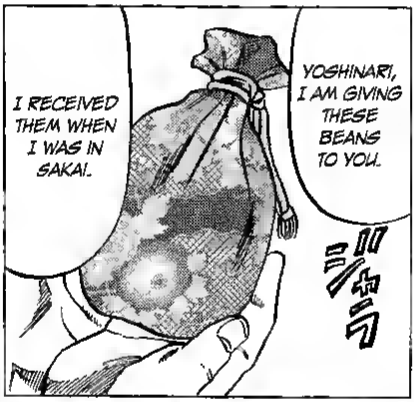

NO, IT'D BE TOO BITTER AND WOULDN'T TASTE GOOD.
AFTER ROASTING THEM, I CAN GRIND THEM AND THEN MAKE THEM INTO A BATTER...


WHAT EXACTLY CAN I MAKE WITH THIS?!
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME...

SUCH A... RICH... SCENT...

...THE SMELL OF THE WORLD...
SO THIS IS...


THIS IS AS VALUABLE AS A WHOLE SHIP?
THAT QUANTITY ALONE IS WORTH AS MUCH AS A SHIP.


I RECEIVED THEM WHEN I WAS IN SAKAI.
YOSHINARI, I AM GIVING THESE BEANS TO YOU.
ジャラ

SFX Rattle

WHAT A RIDICULOUS WORLD WE LIVE IN.
IT IS JUST A HANDFUL OF BEANS...

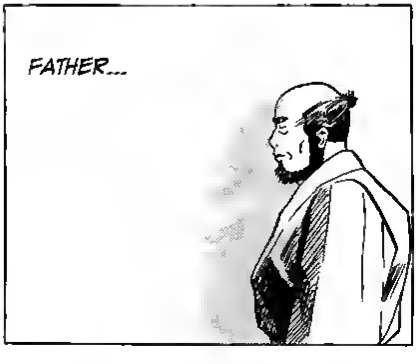
WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW TO EAT THESE BEANS RIGHT NOW, BUT SOMEDAY, WHEN WE REACH THE PLACE WHERE THEY ARE GROWN, WE SHALL.

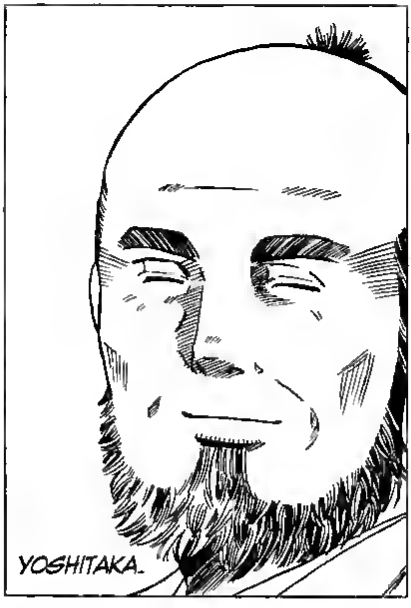
EVEN THOUGH IT IS RIDICULOUS, THAT IS WHAT MAKES THE WORLD INTERESTING.
BUT...

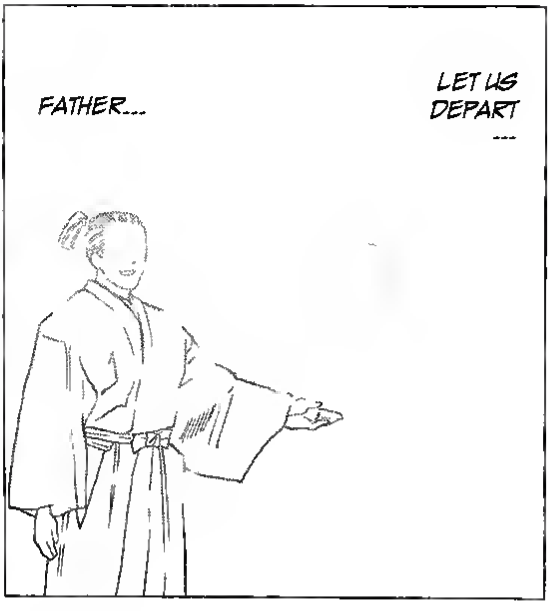
!

AT THAT TIME, LET US EAT TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT.
YOSHINARI...

FATHER...


FATHER...





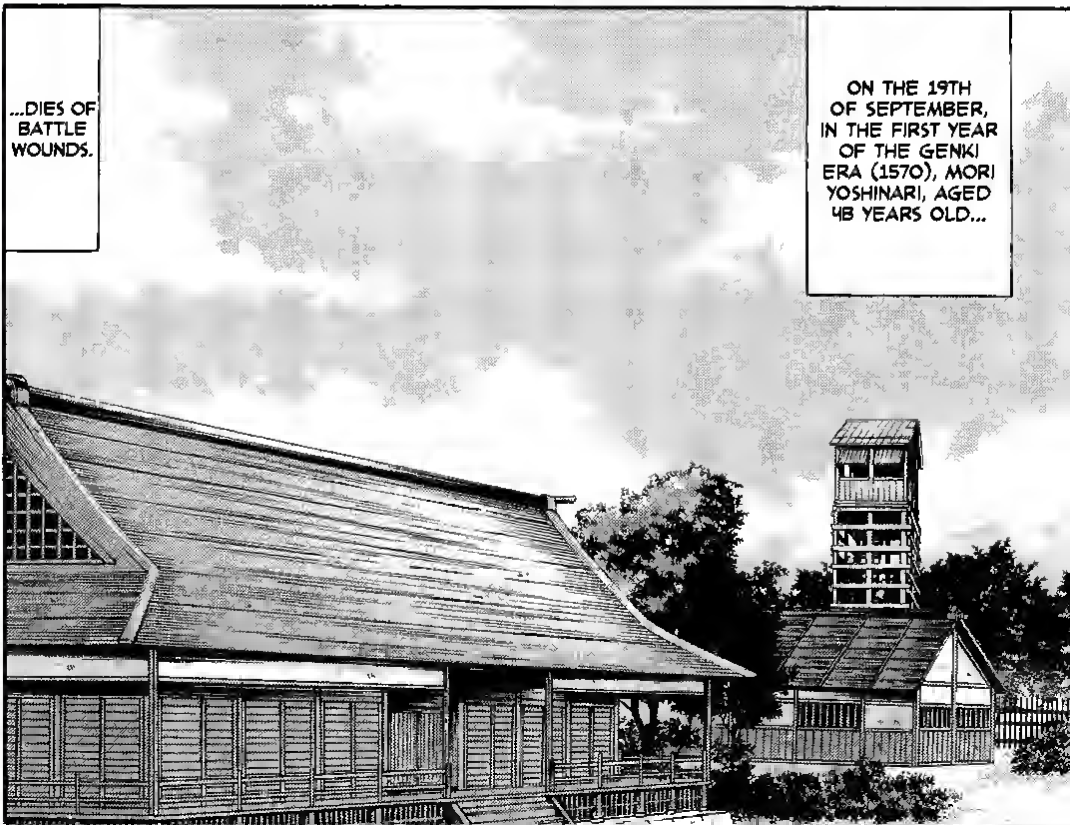
SFX. Grind Grind

SFX. Haa

IF I HAVE SUGAR, THEN I CAN MAKE A SWEET CALLED CHOCOLATE.
SUGAR!
THAT'S THE TICKET. THE LORD HAD TALKED ABOUT BRINGING SUGAR FOR ME TO USE.
SFX Grnd Grnd Grnd
AND CHOCOLATE ALSO HELPS THE BODY RECOVER FROM EXHAUSTION.
IT'S SWEET AND DELICIOUS...
I'LL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AS SOON AS WE RETURN TO GIFU.
MORI DONO WILL DEFINITELY RECOVER HIS ENERGY WITH THIS

SFX Tense

KEN...
ヨ"
。


...DIES OF BATTLE WOUNDS.
ON THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER, IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE GENKI ERA (1570), MORI YOSHINARI, AGED 48 YEARS OLD...

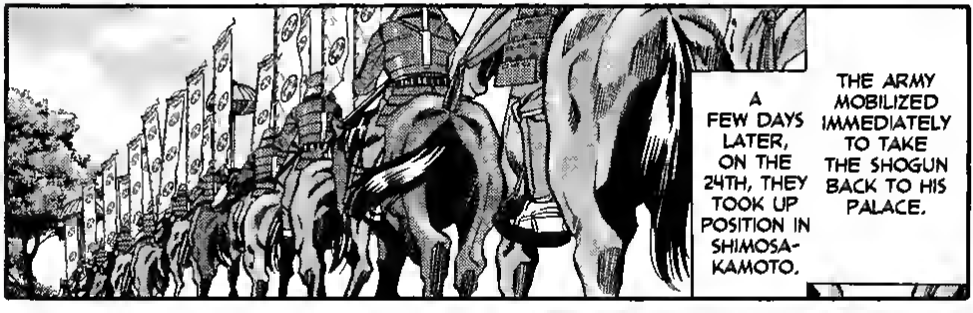
Chapter 46

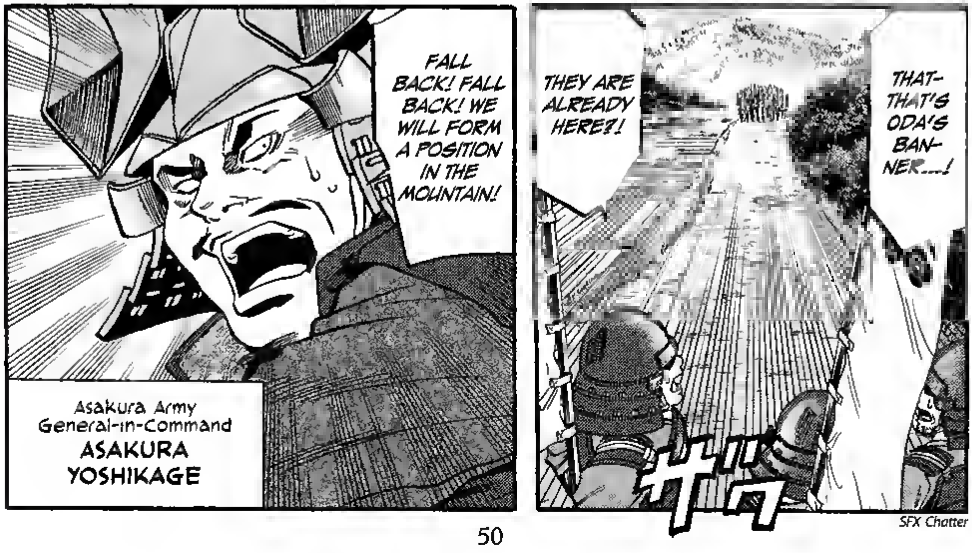
SFX Woosh
I COME FROM MOUNT USA CASTLE WHERE YOU SENT ME AS ENVOY.
I WILL NOW MAKE MY REPORT TO THE LORD.
MAKE WAY...
MAKE WAY...
SFX Gallop Gallop
THE AZAI-ASAKURA ARMIES GATHERED, AND ON THE 16TH, MARCHED ON SAKAMOTO IN OUMI.
IN ORDER TO HALT THEIR SOUTHERN ADVANCE, MORI-SAMA MET THEM IN BATTLE.

...BUT DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH, THEY WERE THEN ANNIHILATED..
YES, SIR! THANKS TO MORI-SAMA AND HIS TROOPS' BRAVERY, THEY WERE ABLE TO BEAT THE ENEMY BACK ONCE...
AZAI AND ASAKURA DID?!
AND? WHAT HAPPENED ?
HOWEVER, THE AZAI-ASAKURA FORCES HAVE BURNT DOWN THE DAIGO AND YAMASHINA DISTRICTS NEAR KYOTO AND ARE NOW ADVANCING ON THE CITY.
A DETACHMENT OF OUR ENEMIES' FORCES ATTACKED MOUNT UGA CASTLE AND SET IT AFIRE, BUT OUR REMAINING TROOPS THERE PUT UP A VALIANT DEFENSE AND SAVED THE CASTLE.
SFX: Chatter
THE CAPITAL?!
SFX: Grit

Chapter 46 The One Who Dreamed

SFX Woosh
23RD OF SEPTEMBER, NOBUNAGA SET OUT ON A FORCED MARCH TO THE CAPITAL.
THIS IS BAD. I MUST SEND WORD TO AZAI AND ASAKURA SOMEHOW.

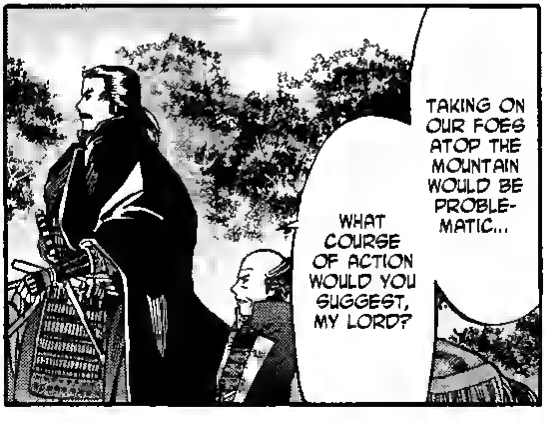

A FEW DAYS LATER, ON THE 24TH, THEY TOOK UP POSITION IN SHIMOSA-KAMOTO.
THE ARMY MOBILIZED IMMEDIATELY TO TAKE THE SHOGUN BACK TO HIS PALACE.

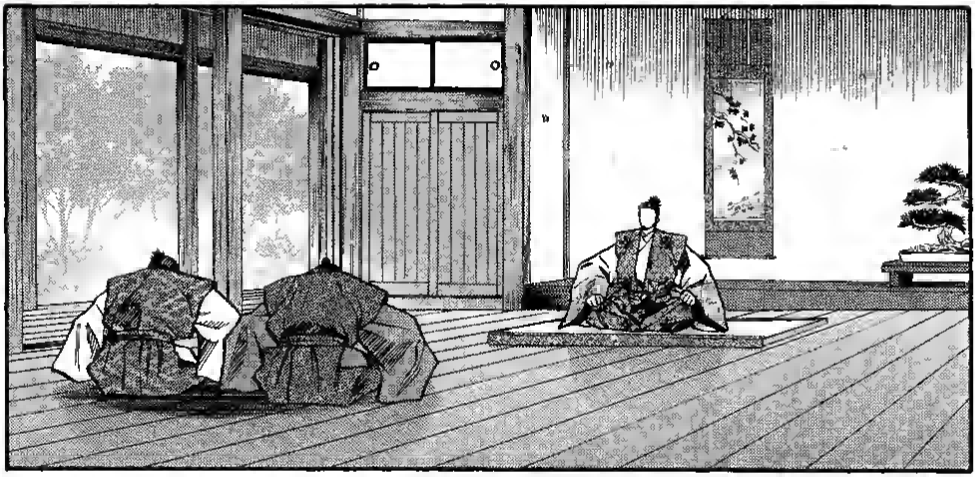

FALL BACK! FALL BACK! WE WILL FORM A POSITION IN THE MOUNTAIN!
Asakura Army General-in-Command
ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE
THEY ARE ALREADY HERE?!
THAT- THAT'S ODA'S BAN-NER...!
SFX Chatter

...THE AZAI-ASAKURA ALLIED FORCES DECIDED TO AVOID A DECISIVE BATTLE AND SET UP THEIR POSITION ON MOUNT HIEI.
KNOWING THAT ODA'S ARMY WOULD CATCH UP WITH THEM BEFORE THEY ENTERED THE CAPITAL...

THE LONGER WE DRAW OUT THIS BATTLE, THE GREATER OUR ADVANTAGE!

NOBUNAGA IS TRULY BESIEGED ON ALL SIDES, WEDGED BETWEEN THE ENRYAKU TEMPLE, ISHIYAMA HONGAN TEMPLE, MIYOSHI ROKKAKU, AND OURSELVES.
WE WOULD ONLY BE PLAYING INTO NOBUNAGA'S HANDS IF WE ALLOWED OURSELVES TO BE DRAWN INTO A FRONTAL ASSAULT.

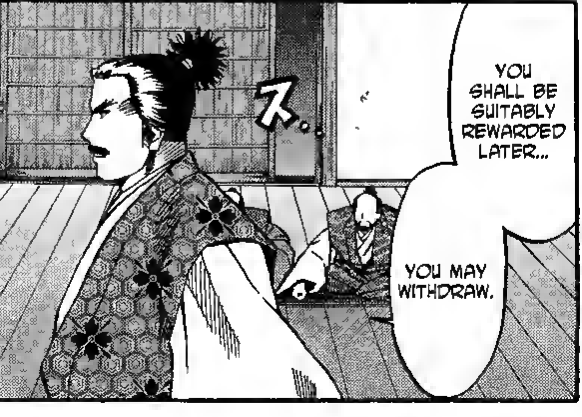

WHAT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD YOU SUGGEST, MY LORD?
TAKING ON OUR FOES ATOP THE MOUNTAIN WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC...

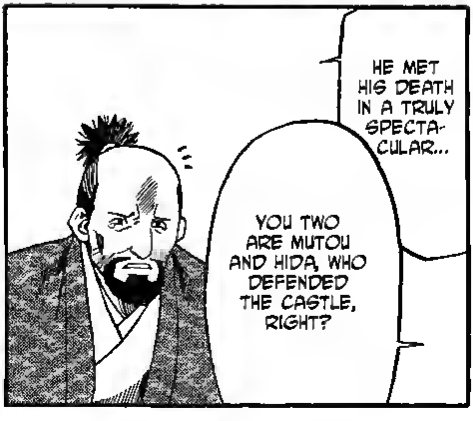


SFX Rattle

I SEE...
MORI YOSHI-NARI-SAMA...
FOUGHT BRAVELY AND DIED IN THE BATTLE AT SAKAMOTO.

SFX Swip

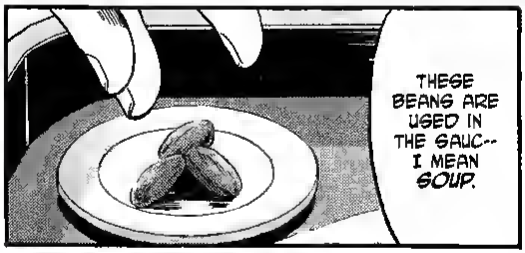

ス..
YOU SHALL BE SUITABLY REWARDED LATER...
YOU MAY WITHDRAW.

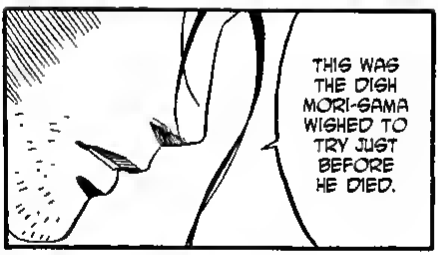

HE MET HIS DEATH IN A TRULY SPECTA-CULAR...
YOU TWO ARE MUTOU AND HIDA, WHO DEFENDED THE CASTLE, RIGHT?

PLEASE WAIT.
MY LORD...
THAT IS ALL...?!
SEN GOUEKI AT YOUR SERVICE.
PLEASE GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE SO THAT I MAY SPEAK A FEW WORDS WITH YOU.
SEN...?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
SPEAK YOUR MIND.
HIS HOLINESS SHINYUU-SAMA TOOK MORI-SAMA'S BODY IN SECRET TO THE SHOUJURAIKOU-JI TEMPLE...
...AND GAVE HIM A SOLEMN BURIAL.

'TIS BEFITTING OF MORI-SAMA'S PERSONAL CHARACTER.
FOR EVEN OUR ENEMIES TO RESPECT HIM SO MUCH...
MORI-SAMA'S RETAINERS BALKED AT THE FACT THAT THEY ARE A TEMPLE THAT SUPPORTS MOUNT HIEI...
BUT I WEIGHED IN TO ENSURE IT WAS CARRIED OUT.
SHOUJU-RAIKOU TEMPLE...
I SHALL REMEMBER THEIR NAME.
ALSO, MORI-SAMA WAS HOPING TO APOLOGIZE...
...SINCE HE WANTED TO RETURN YOUR CHEF TO YOU.
SO YOU ARE ALRIGHT.
KEN...

WHAT IS THAT DISH DOING HERE?


THESE BEANS ARE USED IN THE SAUC-- I MEAN SOUP.

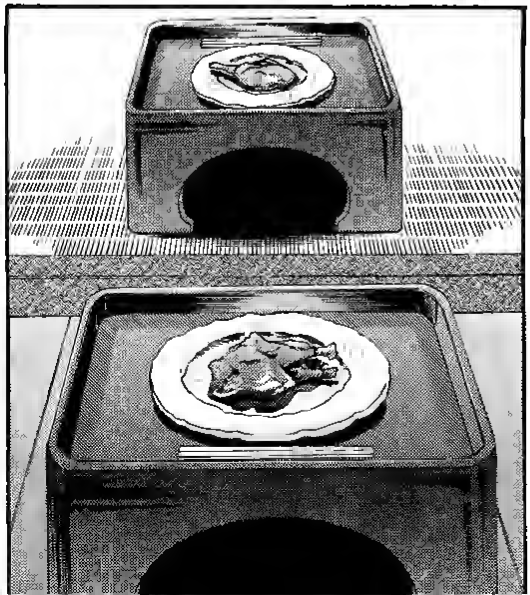

THIS WAS THE DISH MORI-SAMA WISHED TO TRY JUST BEFORE HE DIED.

THOSE... BEANS ARE...

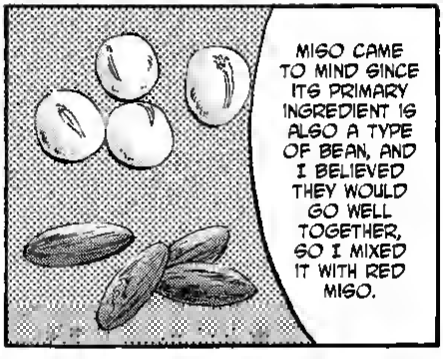
THRUSH À LA ROYALE.
YOSHI-NARI...
...DIDN'T LAST LONG ENOUGH.
I SEE...
...SO HE WISHED TO HAVE THOSE BEANS.

SFX Thump

SFX Chew Chew



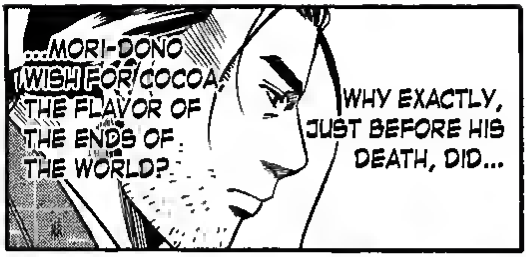
IT HAS A VERY ODD FLAVOR, DOES IT NOT?
À LA ROYALE WAS A STYLE OF COOKING MADE FOR THE KING OF A COUNTRY CALLED FRANCE.
THIS IS A CLASSICAL STYLE OF COOKING WHERE THE MEAT IS STEWED WITH SPIRITS, AND THE BONES, INTERNAL ORGANS, AND BLOOD OF THE ANIMAL, WHICH WAS USUALLY A HARE OR RABBIT, ALTHOUGH I USED THRUSH. I MADE THE SAUCE WITH COCOA BEANS AND MISO.


MISO CAME TO MIND SINCE ITS PRIMARY INGREDIENT IS ALSO A TYPE OF BEAN, AND I BELIEVED THEY WOULD GO WELL TOGETHER, SO I MIXED IT WITH RED MISO.

MISO?
COCOA BEANS ARE EXTREMELY BITTER, SO I HAD TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT TO SERVE THEM WITH.

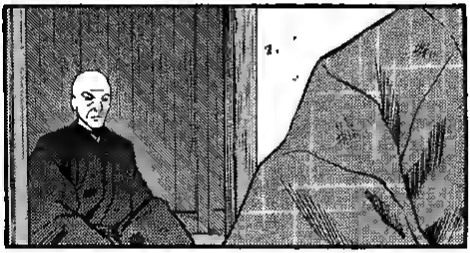
THE MEANING OF ROYALE...
...IS 'OF THE KING' OR 'THE ROYAL FAMILY'.

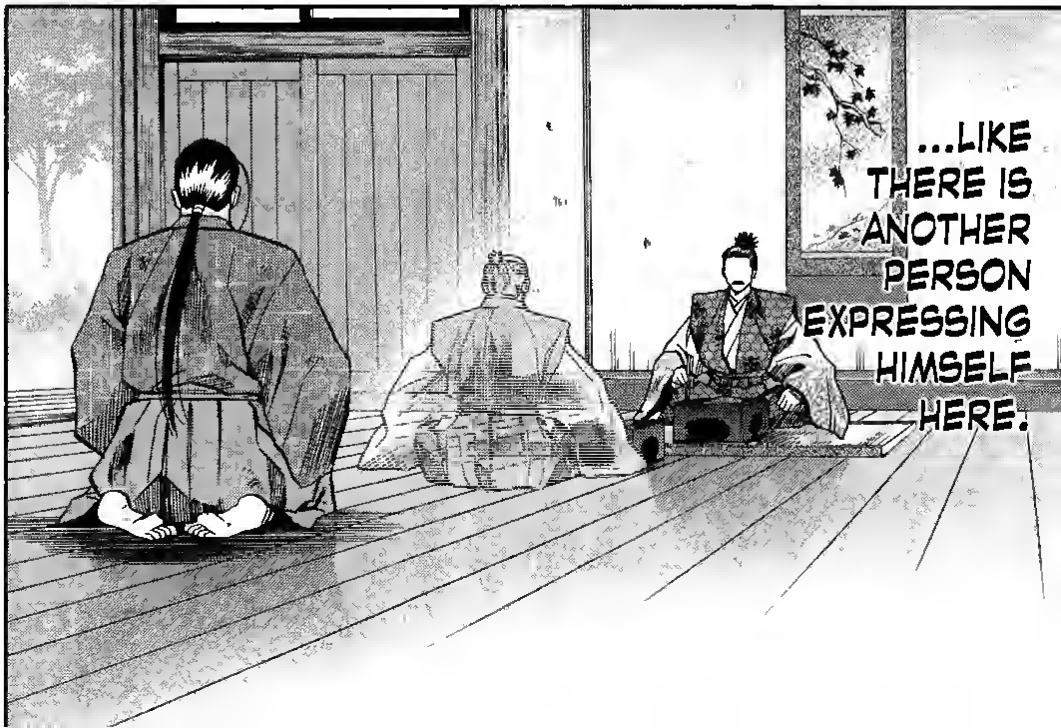
I INFUSED INTO THIS DISH...
...THOSE SENTIMENTS OF MORI-DONO'S.


...MORI-DONO WISH FOR COCOA, THE FLAVOR OF THE ENDS OF THE WORLD?
WHY EXACTLY, JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH, DID...

...HE WANTED TO SEE THE ROYAL NOBUNAGA WHO'D LEAD HIM TO SEE THE WORLD.
THAT'S BECAUSE...

'TIS ALMOST...




...LIKE THERE IS ANOTHER PERSON EXPRESSING HIMSELF HERE.

SFX Gasp
SFX Click
WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE...
YOSHI-NARI.
IF YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, THEN TRY THIS FLAVOR...
...FIRST.

SFX Toss

SFX Grab

IT IS STILL....

YOSHI-NARI-
IT IS STILL SO FAR AWAY...

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BRING WORD TO THE MORI FAMILY.
I BESEECH YOU.
RETURN WITHIN THREE DAYS.
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
WE ARE GOING TO ANNIHILATE AZAI-ASAKURA.
CALL THE MONKS OF ENRYAKU-JI TEMPLE!
AND FIND AN ENVOY TO SEND WORD TO THE MORI FAMILY.

BEFORE I LEAVE, HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING I WISHED TO TELL YOU...
I SHALL ALSO DEPART, TO SAKAI.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST...
YOU HAVE DONE MUCH FOR ME, SEN...
I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW MY APPRECI-ATION. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
A SKILLED FEMALE CHEF, YOU SAY?
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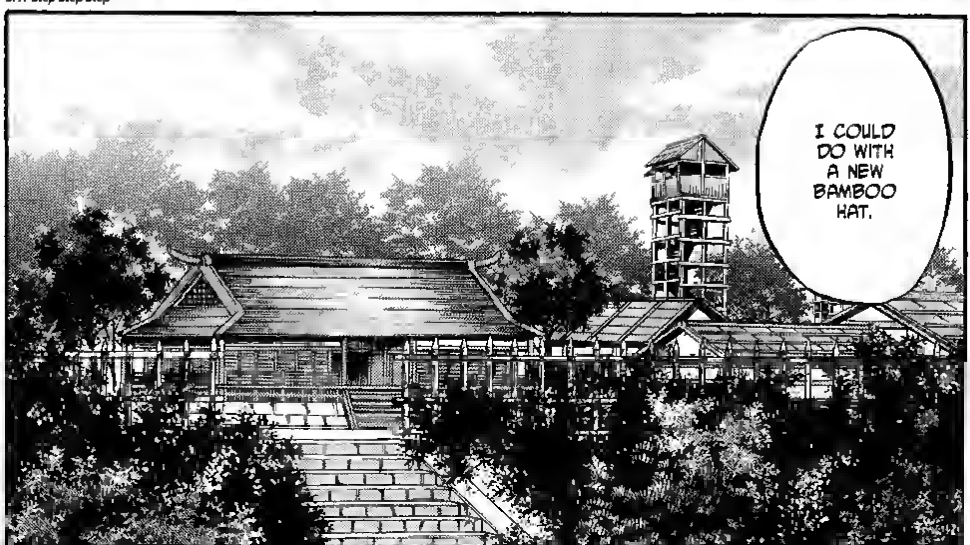
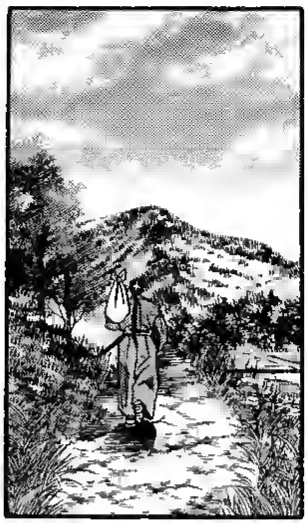
SFX Step Step Step



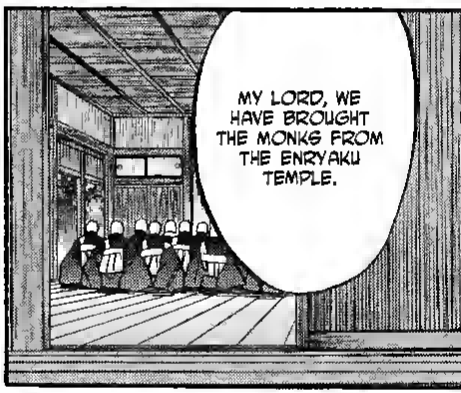
WELL THEN, SEN-SAMA...
DO NOT BE TOO HUNG UP OVER MORI-SAMA, KEN...
YOU DID ALL THAT YOU COULD.
I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO GRANT HIS LAST WISH...!
NO... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, HE IS NOT A MAN WHO COULD BECOME A SPY.
NOT WITH THE HEART HE CARRIES...

THAT MAN IS NOT A SPY...



OR...
DO YOU WANT TO BE ROASTED ALIVE?


MY LORD, WE HAVE BROUGHT THE MONKS FROM THE ENRYAKU TEMPLE.

YOU SHALL EXPEL THE AZAI-ASAKURA FORCES FROM MOUNT HIEI IMMEDIATELY.

SINCE THEN, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM MOUNT HIEI.

SFX: Chatter Chatter
MY LORD...

SFX: Chatter
THEN THIS MEANS THAT THEY INTEND TO REMAIN ALLIES WITH AZAI-ASAKURA...

...AND SURROUND MOUNT HIEI.
MUSTER THE ARMY...

Chapter 47 The Unassailable Fortress

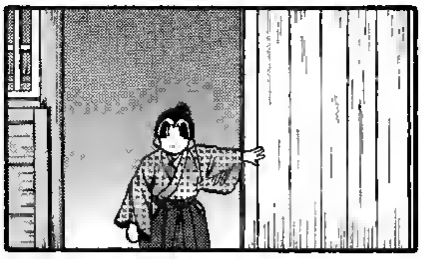
WHY?!
WHY DID MY FATHER HAVE TO DIE?!
SFX: Punch
HOW DARE YOU COME BACK SO NONCHALANTLY!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?!
SFX: Punch Punch
WHY?!
WHY!

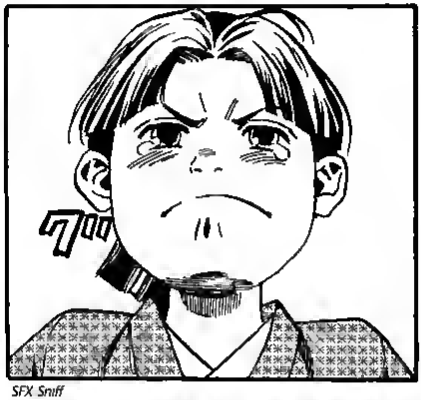
UAAA-AAAH!

RAN-MARU-SAMA...

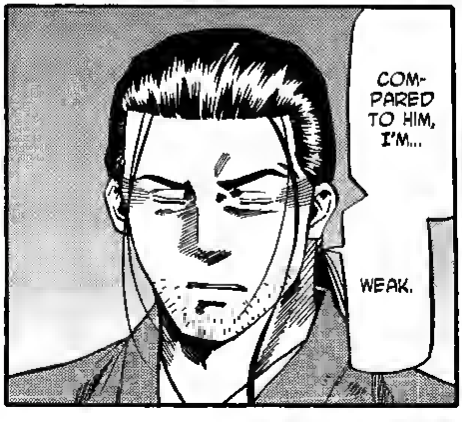
Uagh...
Uuh...

THERE IS NO WAY MY STRONG FATHER WANTED TO BE PROTECTED BY ANYONE ELSE.
FATHER LIVED OUT HIS WHOLE LIFE.
NO...
NO...
NO...
I'M SORRY... IF ONLY I HAD MORE POWER...
HE RESPECTED HIS OWN WILL...!

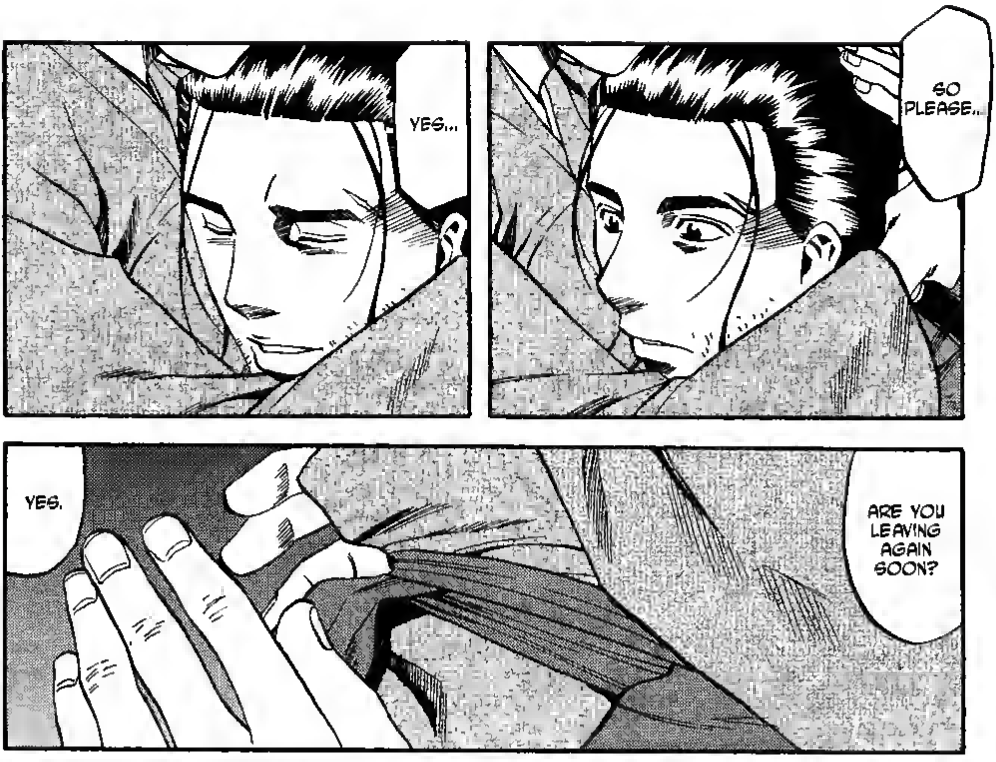



SFX Sniff

EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO YOUNG, HE'S ALREADY GROWN INTO A MAN OF THIS WORLD OF CONFLICT...
SO. . STRONG ...


COM-PARED TO HIM, I'M...
WEAK.

KEN, YOU ARE NOT WEAK AT ALL.
JUST THINK OF ALL THE DELICIOUS FOODS YOU MAKE.
MAYBE IF YOU EAT SOME OF THEM, YOU WILL REGAIN YOUR SPIRIT TOO.
FOR ME AT LEAST, YOU ARE ALWAYS HELPING ME RECOVER KEN


YES...
SO PLEASE...
YES.
ARE YOU LEAVING AGAIN SOON?

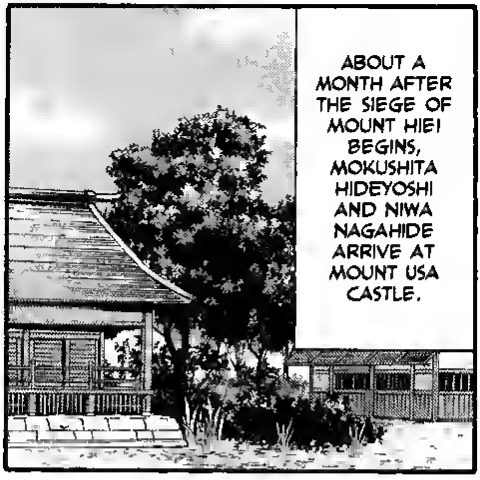
YES...
I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU, SO PLEASE COME BACK QUICKLY AND MAKE MORE DELICIOUS THINGS FOR ME.

NOBUNAGA RESOLVED TO WAGE AN EXTENDED BATTLE AND SURROUNDED MOUNT HIEI.
...AND A NUMBER OF RONIN RAISED HAVOC AROUND KAWACHI AND SETTSU.
THE MIYOSHI FACTION IN THE SOUTH STARTED REBUILDING THEIR FORTIFICATIONS IN NODA-FUKUSHIMA.
BUT THE SITUATION...
...WORSENED QUICKLY.
IN SOUTHERN OUMI, THE ROKKAKU CLAN GAINED GROUND UP TO THE CASTLE AT THE KOUGA CLAN TEMPLE...
...THE ISHIYAMA HONGAN TEMPLE STARTED RALLYING THE COMMON FOLK AND MOVING TO BLOCK THE ROADS FROM OWARI AND MINO.
AND ALL THE WHILE, DISCERNING THAT NOBUNAGA WAS CAUGHT UP IN SURROUNDING MOUNT HIEI...
南無
進者
退者

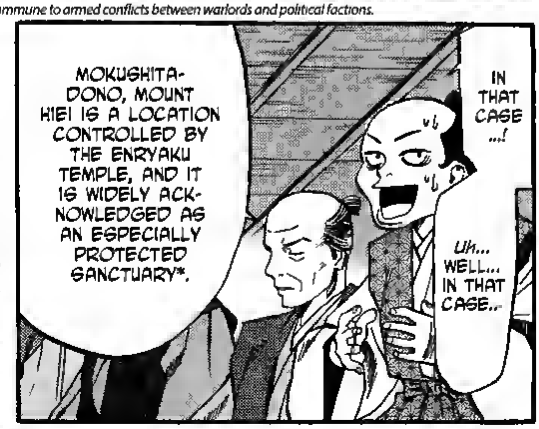
* The Banners all read either: Those who advance go to Heaven, those who retreat are damned to Hell! Namu Amida Buddha or Rebirth in the Pure Land

MOUNT YOKO CASTLE
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THIS IS A GRAVE MATTER FOR OUR LORD!
IT IS PRECISELY AT A TIME LIKE THIS THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF WE LOYAL RETAINERS TO RUSH IN DEFENSE!
THE ROADS TO OWARI AND MINO?!
SFX Trot Trot Trot Trot
FORWARD! FORWARD! ROUT THAT PEASANT RABBLE!

I, MOKUSHITA TOUKICHIROU HIDEYOSHI, HAVE COME FROM KOTOU WITH A SUGGESTION!
WE SHOULD ATTACK THE AZAI-ASAKURA ARMIES ON MOUNT HIEI BY STARVING THEM OUT!



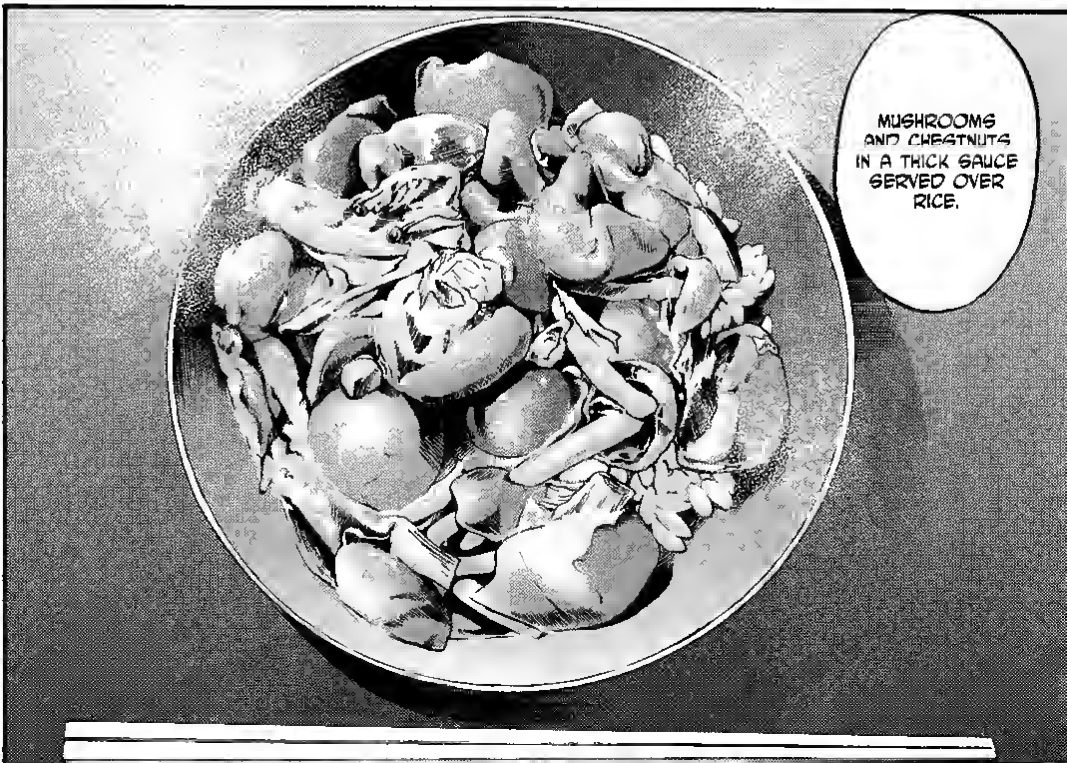
*Especially protected sanctuary—a holy ground that has the privilege of being immune to armed conflicts between warlords and political factions.


MOKUSHITA-DONO, MOUNT HIEI IS A LOCATION CONTROLLED BY THE ENRYAKU TEMPLE, AND IT IS WIDELY ACK-NOWLEDGED AS AN ESPECIALLY PROTECTED SANCTUARY*.
IN THAT CASE ...!
UH... WELL... IN THAT CASE...

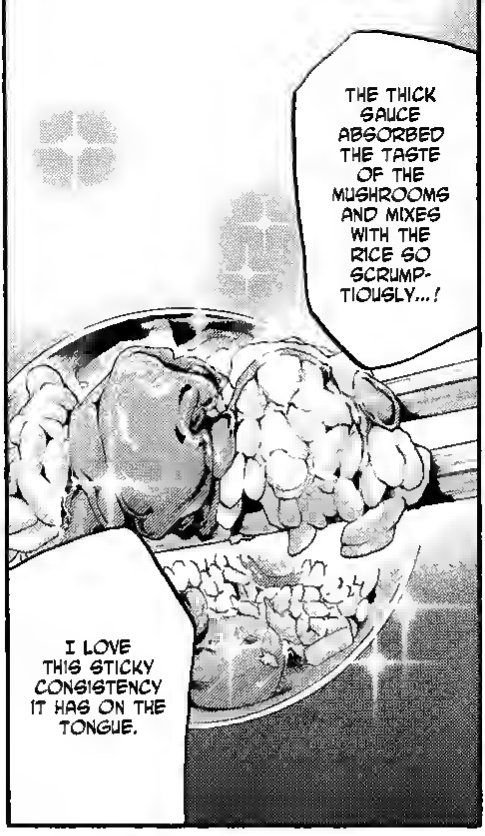
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

コトリ

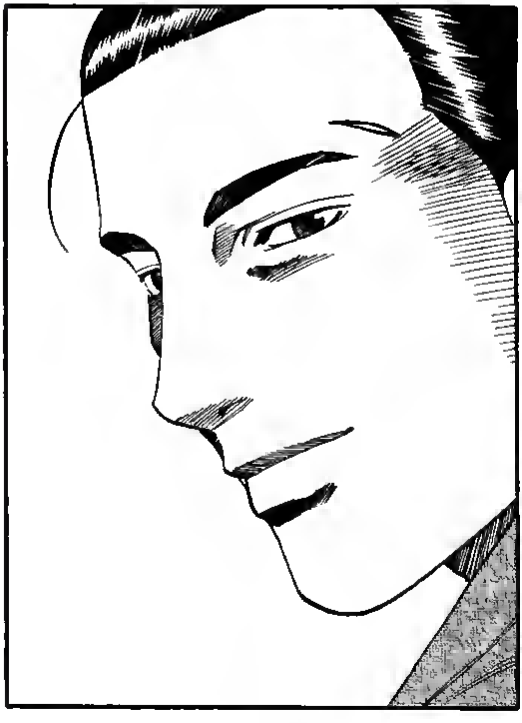
SFX Rattle


MUSHROOMS AND CHESTNUTS IN A THICK SAUCE SERVED OVER RICE.

SFX: Gnash Gnash
...AND THAT THEY EVEN SNEAK WOMEN ONTO THE MOUNTAIN AND COMMIT MANY INDECENT ACTS ALONG WITH THOSE AZAI-ASAKURA SOLDIERS.
SFX: Huff Huff
SUCH SIMPLISTIC FARE AGAIN.
I HEAR THAT THOSE ROTTEN MONKS ON MOUNT HIEI FEAST ON MEAT AND FISH EVEN THOUGH IT IS FORBIDDEN FOR THEM...
MMM!

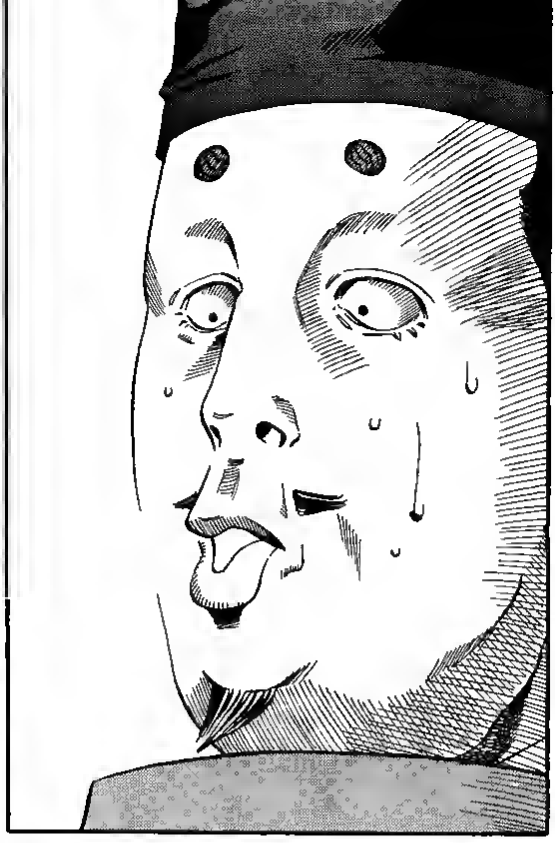

THE THICK SAUCE ABSORBED THE TASTE OF THE MUSHROOMS AND MIXES WITH THE RICE SO SCRUMP-TIOUSLY...!
I LOVE THIS STICKY CONSISTENCY IT HAS ON THE TONGUE.

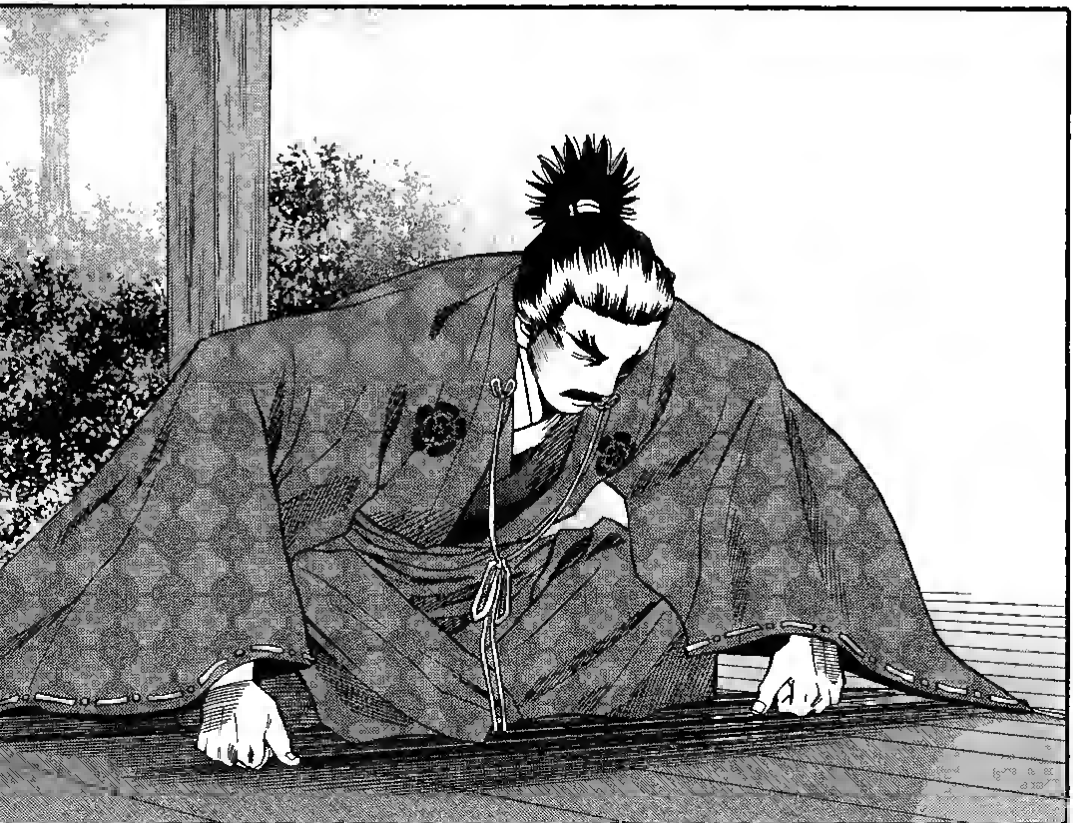
WHAT A RICH TASTE THIS HAS!



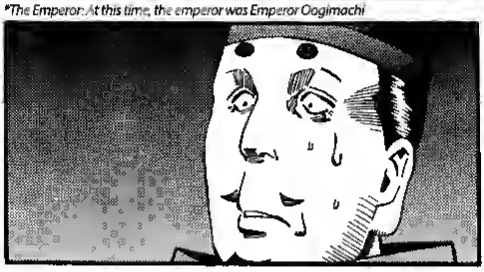
KEN..
YES, SIR.
AFTER THIS, STAY HERE AND LISTEN, JUST BEHIND THE DOOR.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU ARE BACK TO YOURSELF.

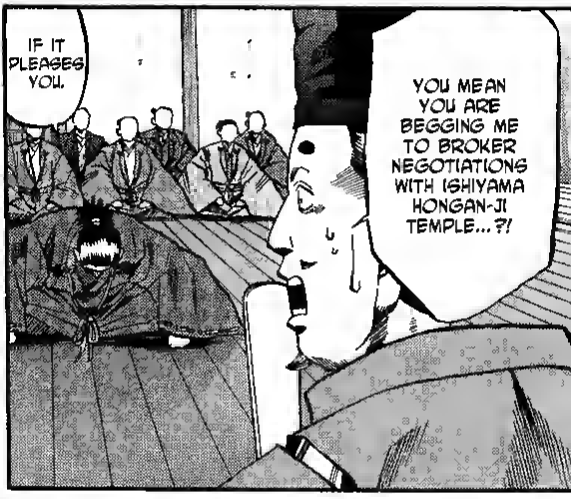
HOW-EVER...
I SHALL NOT LET THEM SUCCEED.
LISTEN WHILE YOU CONTINUE EATING.
THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AZAI-ASAKURA ARMY'S TACTICS IS TO RALLY ALL OF THE FORCES OPPOSING US.
SFX Stand
AND DES-TROY THEM.
WE NEED TO DIVIDE THEM...
THEN DEAL WITH EACH OF THEM SEPARATELY, AND ONE BY ONE, PULL THEM OUT LIKE WEEDS.
BUT HOW EXACTLY WILL WE DIVIDE THEM...?
DES-TROY ...?
I HAVE SUMMONED THE SHOGUN TO JOIN US...
I WILL HAVE HIM INTERCEDE WITH THE COURT ON OUR BEHALF.





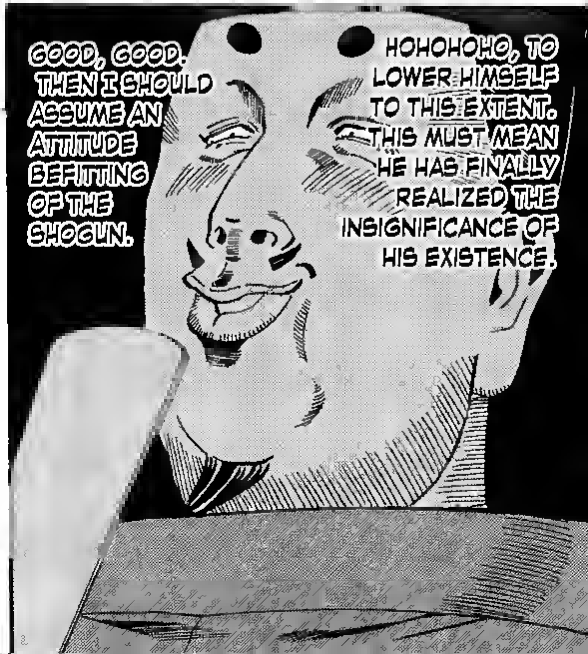
*The Emperor: At this time, the emperor was Emperor Ogimachi





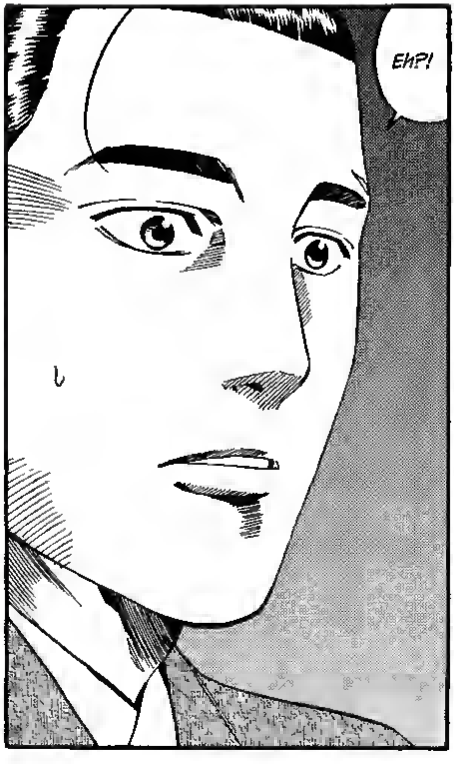
SFX: Grin

NO.
I AM WILLING TO HELP YOU SETTLE YOUR AFFAIRS.
OF COURSE, I EXPECT YOU WILL LEAVE THE RECONCILING OF THE TWO PARTIES' DEMANDS TO ME?


GOOD, GOOD. THEN I SHOULD ASSUME AN ATTITUDE BEFITTING OF THE SHOGUN.
HOHOHOHO, TO LOWER HIMSELF TO THIS EXTENT. THIS MUST MEAN HE HAS FINALLY REALIZED THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF HIS EXISTENCE.

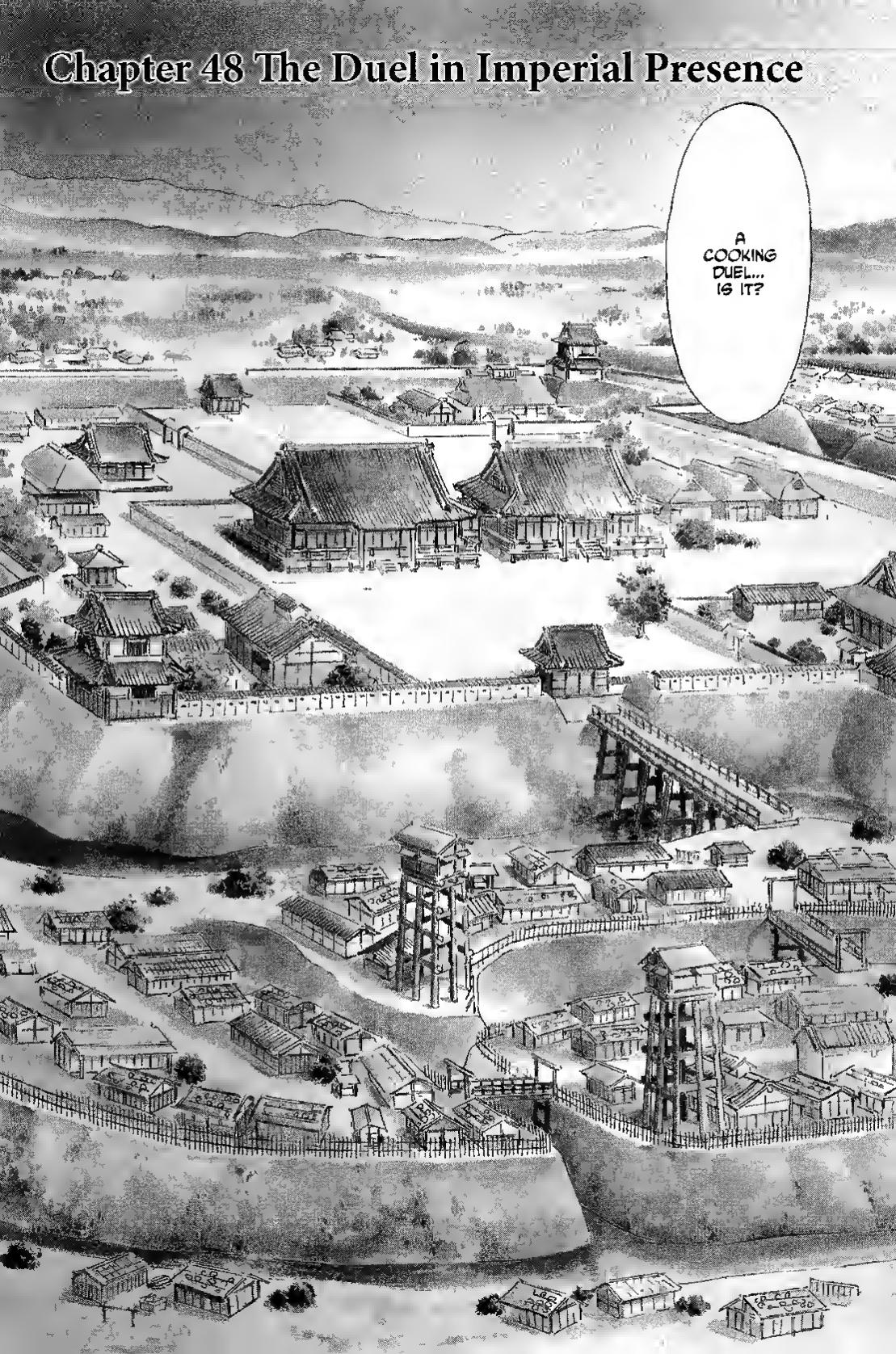
A DUEL BEFORE THE THRONE ...?!
I WOULD BE LOATHE TO TROUBLE THE SHOGUN WITH SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS...
WE SHALL DECIDE MATTERS WITH A DUEL BEFORE THE THRONE.
SFX: Shout
WOW, LEAVE IT TO OUR LORD TO THINK FAR BEYOND THE ORDINARY MAN'S COMMON SENSE.
IT SHALL BE UP TO THE EMPEROR TO DECIDE THE VICTOR, AND THE LOSER SHALL ACCEPT ANY TERMS SET BY THE WINNER.
SO HOW SHALL THE DUEL BE FOUGHT? ARCHERY? THE SWORD? OR MAYBE SUMO WRESTLING?
I SEE. INTER-ESTING!

COOKING.


EH?!

CO--
COOK-
ING?!

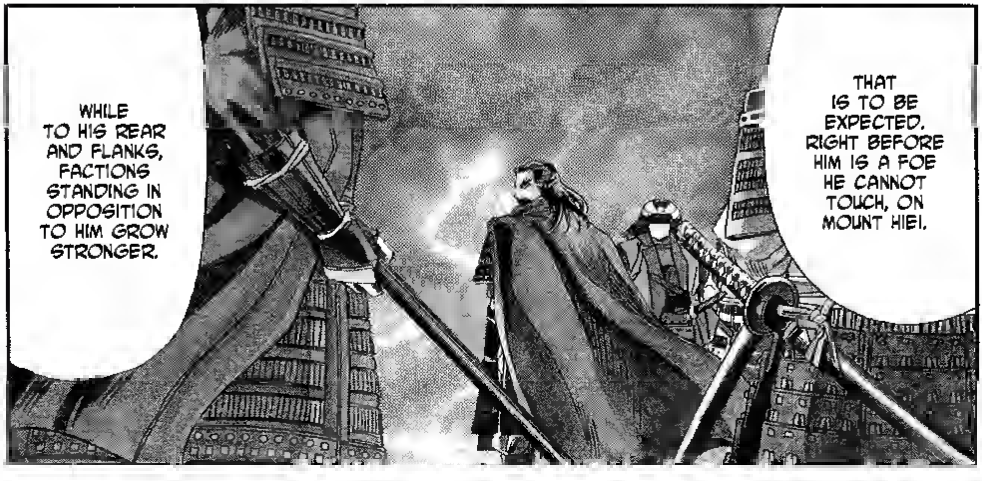
Chapter 48 The Duel in Imperial Presence



THAT IS RIGHT.
AND THAT NOBUNAGA CAME TO ME TO BROKER NEGOTIATIONS!

SFX Kukuku

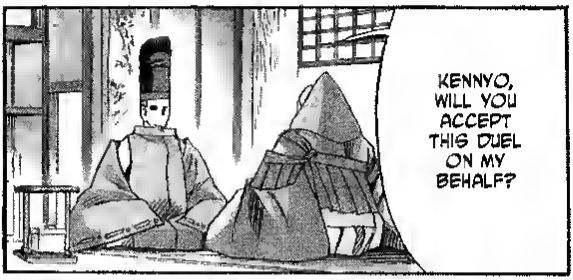
IT SEEMS HE IS TRULY PERTURBED!
ﾌﾌﾌ


WHILE TO HIS REAR AND FLANKS, FACTIONS STANDING IN OPPOSITION TO HIM GROW STRONGER.
THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED. RIGHT BEFORE HIM IS A FOE HE CANNOT TOUCH, ON MOUNT HIEI.

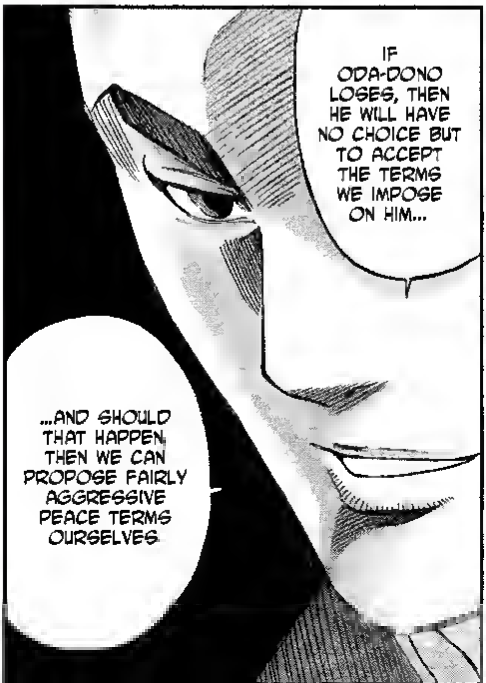
AND THEN THE WORST OF IT ALL ARE THE IKKO IKKI.
...MAKING IT A VERITABLE ARMY.
WARRIORS AND BELIEVERS ARE AMONG THE RECRUITS...
THE IKKO IKKI MOVEMENT IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THE PEASANT IKKI RABBLE.
...THEY CAN APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR LIKE GHOSTS OR THE TONGUES OF FLAMES SHOOTING FROM AN INFERNO.
AND AROUND NOBUNAGA, WHO IS STUCK IN PLACE...

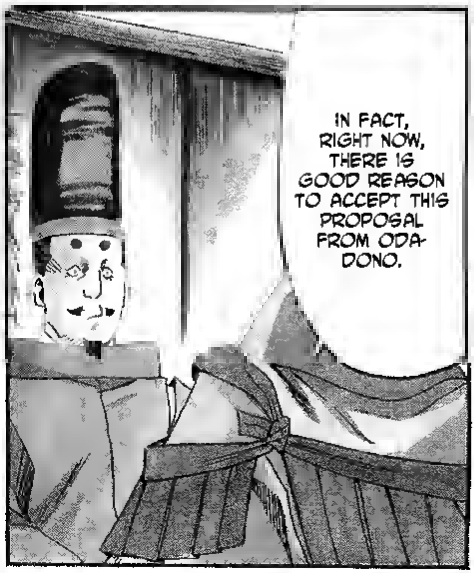
I CANNOT REJECT HIS REQUESTS OUTRIGHT.
HOWEVER, EVEN NOW, THAT MAN STILL HOLDS THE CAPITAL...

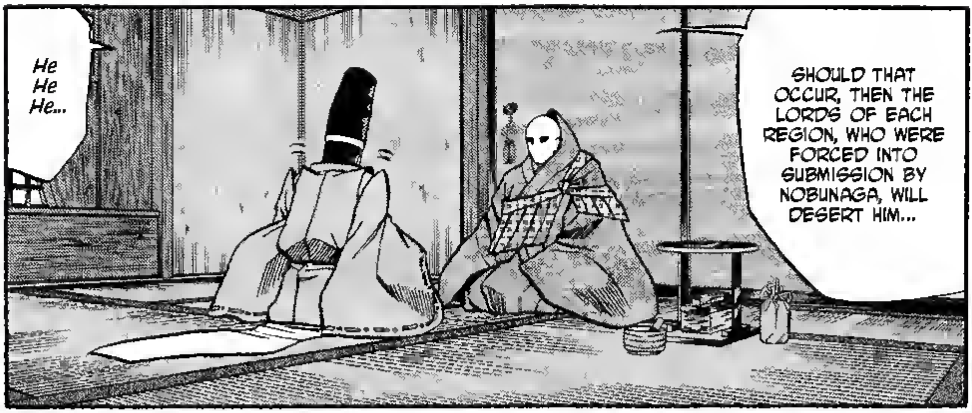
IT APPEARS WE MAY FINALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE NOBUNAGA'S HEAD SOON.


KENNYO, WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS DUEL ON MY BEHALF?

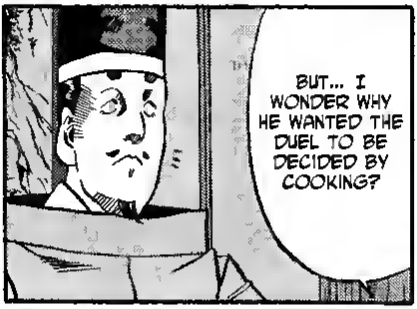
IF IT IS FOR YOU, SHOGUN-SAMA...
THEN I SHALL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT.


IF ODA-DONO LOSES, THEN HE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THE TERMS WE IMPOSE ON HIM...
...AND SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, THEN WE CAN PROPOSE FAIRLY AGGRESSIVE PEACE TERMS OURSELVES.

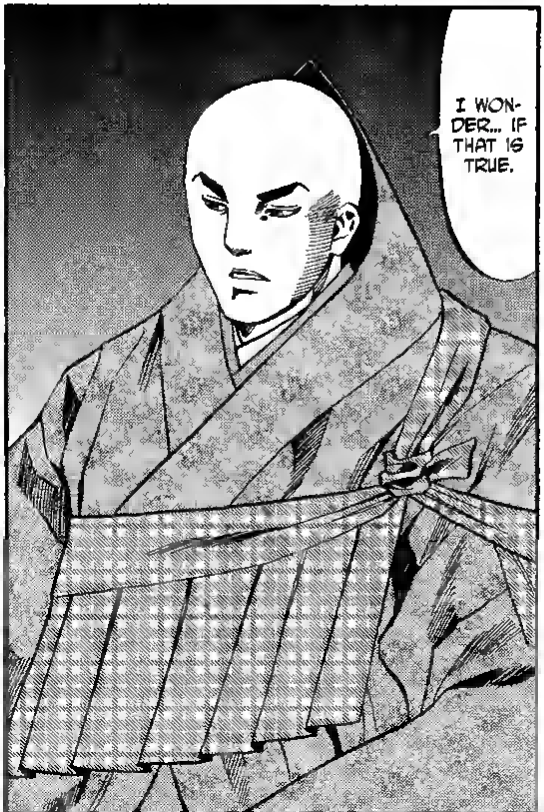

IN FACT, RIGHT NOW, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL FROM ODA-DONO.


He He He...
SHOULD THAT OCCUR, THEN THE LORDS OF EACH REGION, WHO WERE FORCED INTO SUBMISSION BY NOBUNAGA, WILL DESERT HIM...

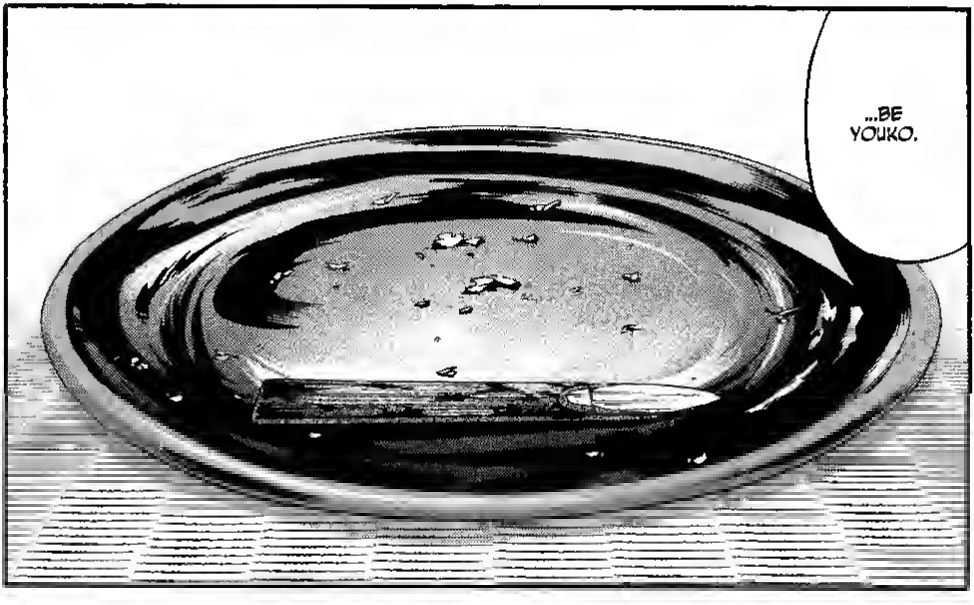
...AND HE IS IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT WE TOO HAVE A SKILLED CHEF ON OUR SIDE.
Oh, THAT IS BECAUSE NOBUNAGA HAS A SKILLED CHEF NAMED KEN IN WHOM HE HAS COMPLETE FAITH.


BUT... I WONDER WHY HE WANTED THE DUEL TO BE DECIDED BY COOKING?

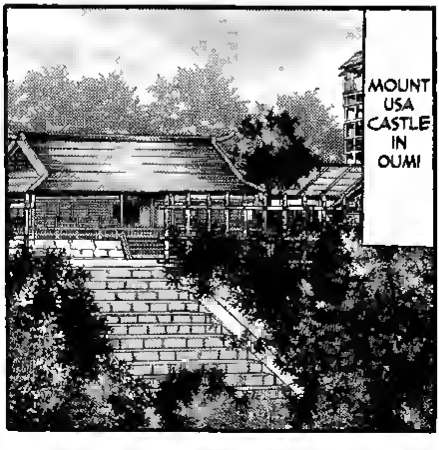
I MEAN, I CAME HERE PRECISELY WITH THAT AS MY STRATEGY.
SO, KENNYO, YOU ARE GOING TO LET *THAT ONE* PARTICIPATE AS OUR CHEF, RIGHT?

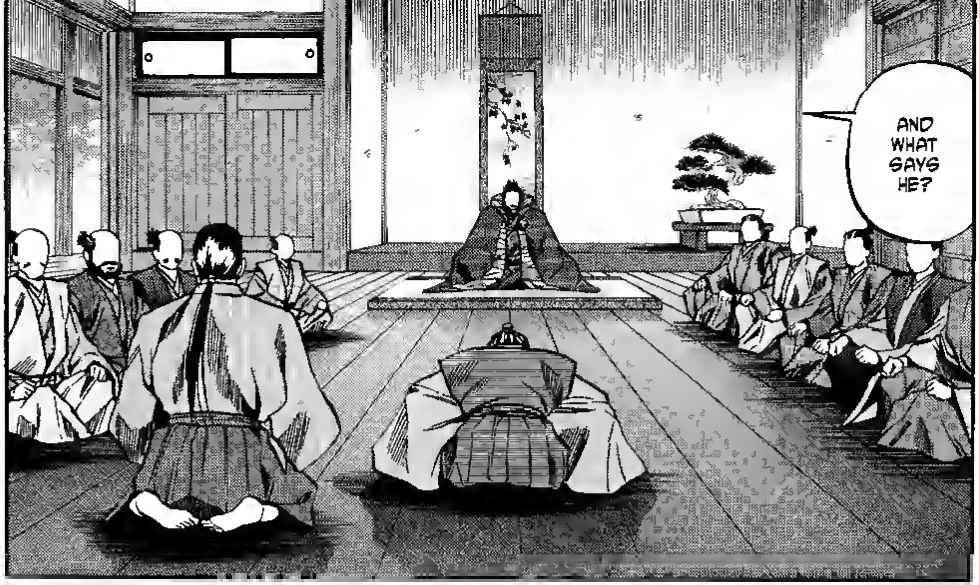

I WONDER... IF THAT IS TRUE.

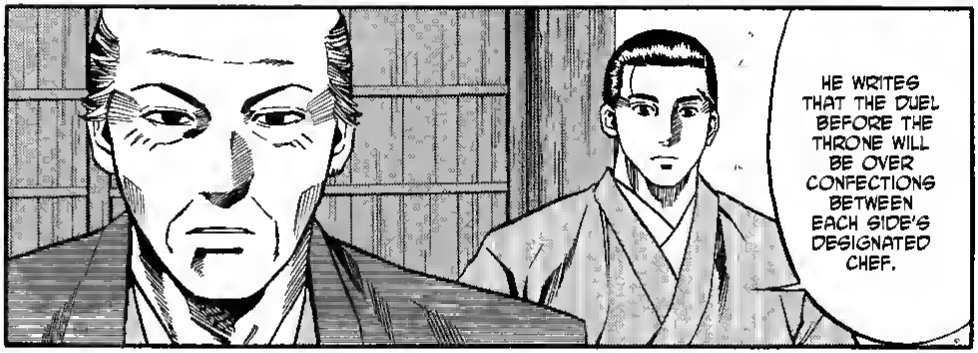
YES, OUR CHEF *WILL* OF COURSE...


...BE YOUKO.

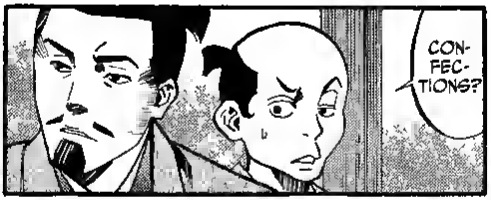
MY LORD...
AN ENVOY HAS COME FROM THE SHOGUN, ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI-SAMA.


MOUNT USA CASTLE IN OUMI


AND WHAT SAYS HE?


HE WRITES THAT THE DUEL BEFORE THE THRONE WILL BE OVER CONFECTIONS BETWEEN EACH SIDE'S DESIGNATED CHEF.

KEN...
BEHOLD THE SHOGUN'S SHALLOW THOUGHTS.


CON-FEC-TIONS?

MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO ONE OF OUR SPIES, THE CHEF AT THE HONGAN TEMPLE SPECIALIZES IN SWEETS, WHICH WOULD BE THE REASONING FOR THIS.

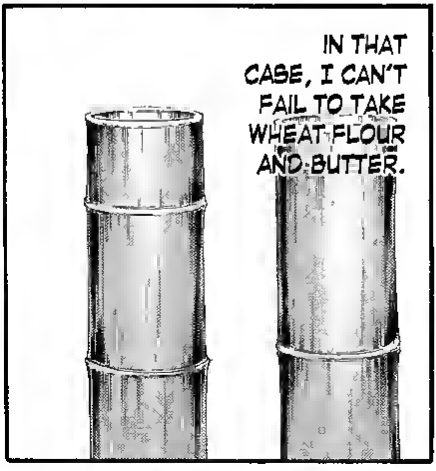
A DUEL OVER CONFECTIONS...
AND THERE IS ONE MORE CONDITION.
THE CHEFS WILL BE LIMITED TO BRINGING *THREE* ITEMS WITH THEM, IN THESE THREE BAMBOO TUBES.

I'LL HAVE THREE ITEMS...
THREE ITEMS...?! ONLY?!
SFX: Chatter
WHY WOULD THEY MAKE SUCH FRUSTRATING RULES...?
I IMAGINE IT IS TO ENSURE A FAIR MATCH.
FUTHERMORE, THE SHOGUN WILL PREPARE A NUMBER OF FRUITS.
THE DUEL SHALL BE HELD IN SEVEN DAYS.
THE LOCATION SHALL BE THE IMPERIAL COURT IN THE CAPITAL!

SFX Murmur Murmur

...THEN TO MATCH THAT, I OUGHT TO FIGHT BACK WITH AN EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE WESTERN CONFECTION.
IF WHAT SEN-SAMA SAID IS TRUE, AND THERE IS A CHEF WHO SPECIALIZES IN WESTERN SWEETS AT THE HONGAN TEMPLE...

...AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, JUST AS WINTER BEGINS, WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO PERSIMMON, CHESTNUTS, OR TANGERINES.
THE FRUIT THAT THE SHOGUN WILL PREPARE...



IN THAT CASE, I'LL MAKE THAT.
WHICH MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT FOR THE FINAL BAMBOO TUBE, I'LL NEED...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION.
LISTEN WELL, KEN, THIS IS NOT A PEACE NEGOTIATION.
IF WE COMPEL THE HONGAN TEMPLE TO SURRENDER, THEN WE SHALL GREATLY WEAKEN THE INFLUENCE THAT BINDS MANY A LORD AND POWER TO THE MONTO BUDDHIST SECT.
FIGHT THIS DUEL WITH YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE.

MOUNT HIEI
WHAT ARE ODA'S MOVE-MENTS?

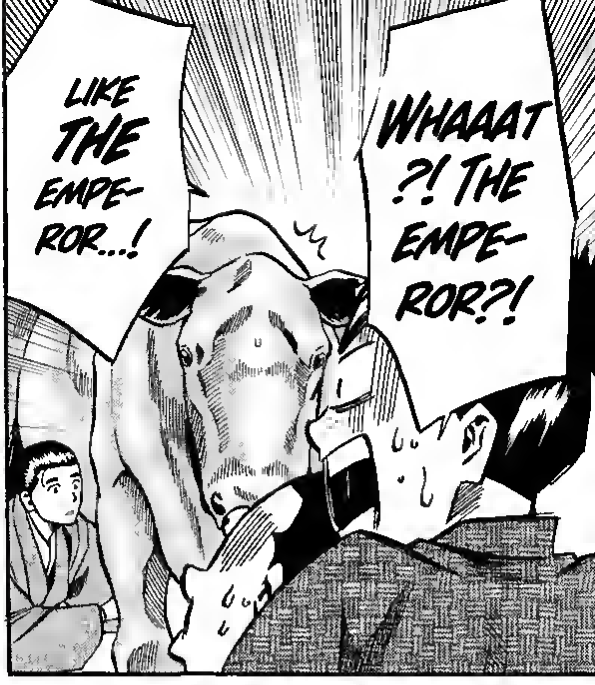
WHAT IS THAT BASTARD, ODA THINKING?!
IT HAS ALMOST BEEN A MONTH ALREADY, SO WHY IS HE NOT STIRRING?!

WHY IS THAT?!
HE IS NOT MAKING ANY MOVE...

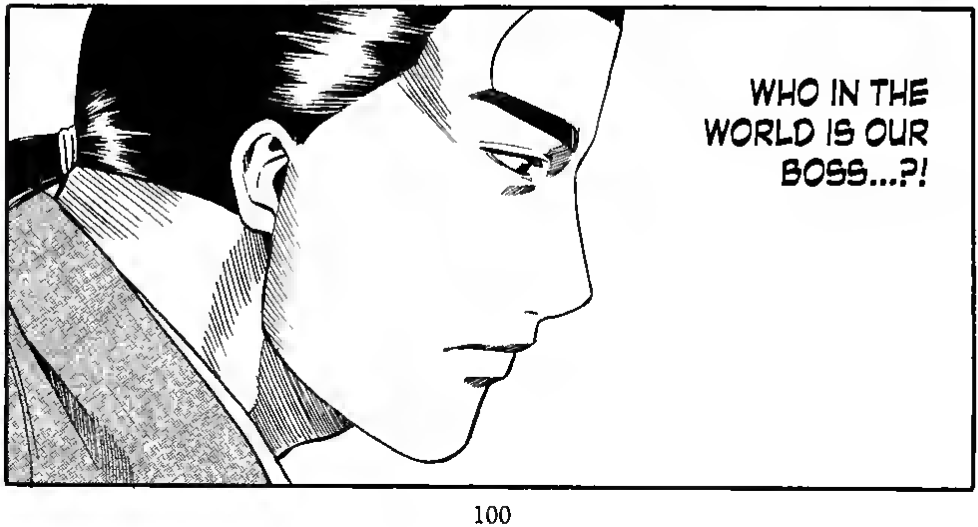
AND, HAVING NO READING ON NOBUNAGA'S INTENTIONS, AZAI-ASAKURA COULD ONLY BIDE THEIR TIME.
WITH HIS SIGHTS SET ON THE HONGAN TEMPLE, NOBUNAGA WAS QUITE CONTENT TO LET THE AZAI-ASAKURA ARMY REST ON MOUNT HIEI.

YOU JUST GOT BACK FROM GIFU, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU WANT US TO MAKE BUTTER...
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THIS TIME, BOSS?
THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.
IMPE-RIAL WHAT?
EMPEROR...
WE'RE HAVING A DESSERT COOKING CONTEST WITH THE HONGAN TEMPLE AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE.

HEY THERE, DON'T SHOUT SO LOUDLY.
DON'T YOU SEE YOU'RE DISTURBING THE COWS?

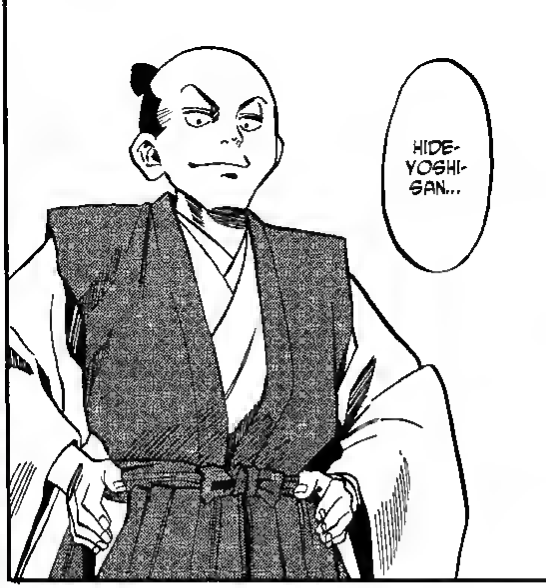

LIKE THE EMPE-ROR...!
WHAAAT ?! THE EMPE-ROR?!

COOKING FOOD ON THE BATTLEFIELD, COOKING FOR THE SHOGUN, AND NOW EVEN FOR THE EMPEROR...
EVER SINCE WE STARTED WORKING UNDER THIS GUY, IT HAS BEEN ONE CRAZY THING AFTER ANOTHER.

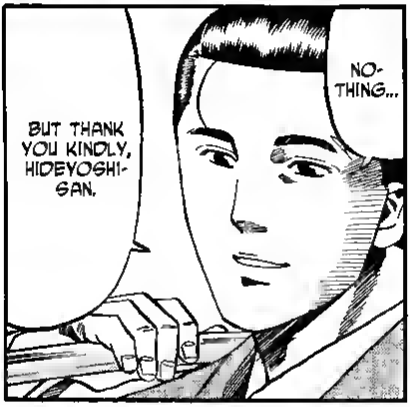

WHO IN THE WORLD IS OUR BOSS...?!

...THEN THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT THE CHEF AT THE HONGAN TEMPLE COMES FROM THE HEISEI PERIOD LIKE ME.
IF I HEARD SEN-SAMA CORRECTLY...
DO YOU KNOW OF THE CAKE, "PET DE NONNE"?
...ABOUT WHO I AM...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MAYBE WHEN WE MEET, I CAN ASK HER TO TELL ME...
...SINCE I'VE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING ABOUT IT.
...MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS, THE WORLD I GREW UP IN...

IS THERE NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU OUT?


HIDE-YOSHI-SAN...

MORI-DONO GAMBLED HIS LIFE TO BRING ABOUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS.
WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO KEEP UP THIS PRESSURE.


NO-THING...
BUT THANK YOU KINDLY, HIDEYOSHI-SAN.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT I WIN THIS DESSERT DUEL...

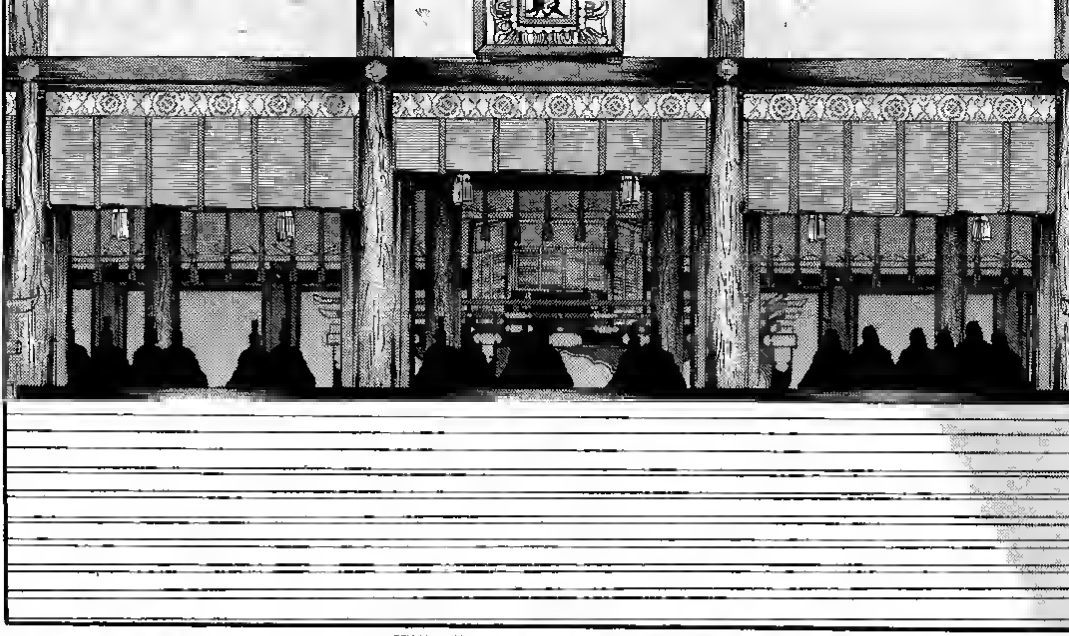
I SHOULDN'T... BE THINKING ABOUT MEETING THE CHEF FROM THE HONGAN TEMPLE.
THAT'S RIGHT ...

AKECHI-SAMA...
KEN, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
YES, ACTUALLY, THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO PROCURE FOR ME...
HEY, WAIT A SEC!
YOU CERTAINLY CHANGED YOUR TUNE FROM A MOMENT AGO!
ARE YOU SAYING I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO HELP...?!
OH, NO, IT'S JUST THAT AKECHI-SAMA IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS IN THE CAPITAL, SO...
CAPITAL ?!
PRO-CURE-MENT?
LIKE WHAT?
RYUKYUAN SHOCHU.

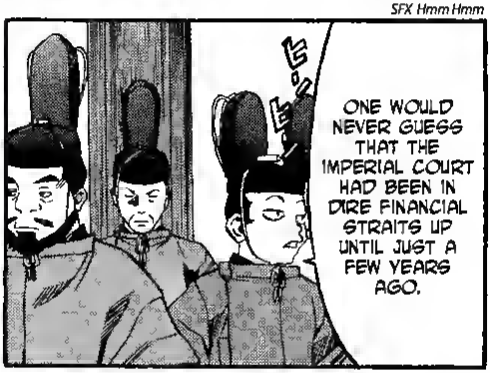
SFX. Don
ドロ
ドロ
SFX. Don
ドロ
SFX. Don
ドロ

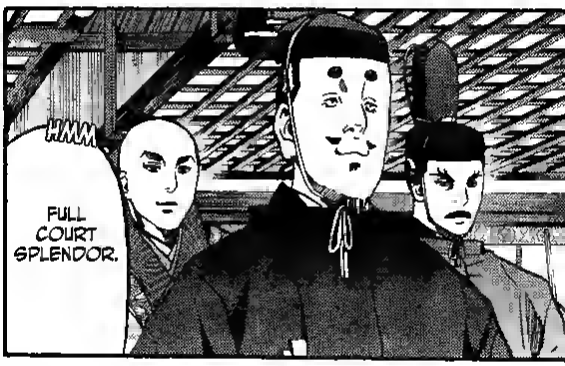
SFX Don
SEVEN
DAYS
LATER
SFX Don
ドォォン

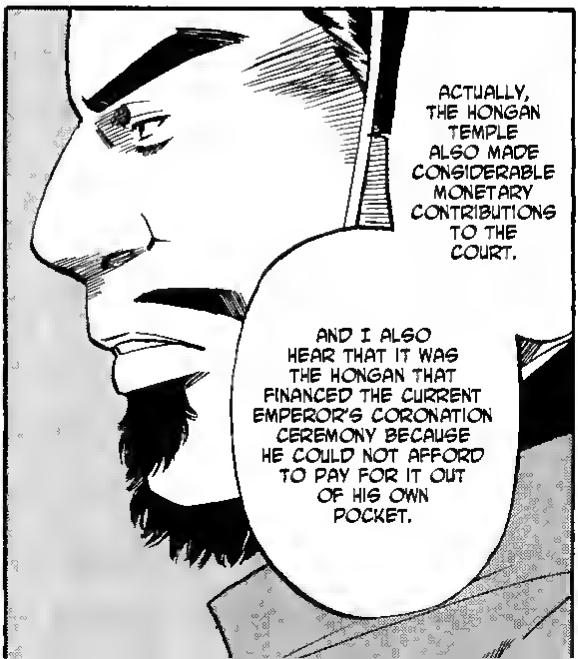
SFX.Don



SFX Hmm Hmm

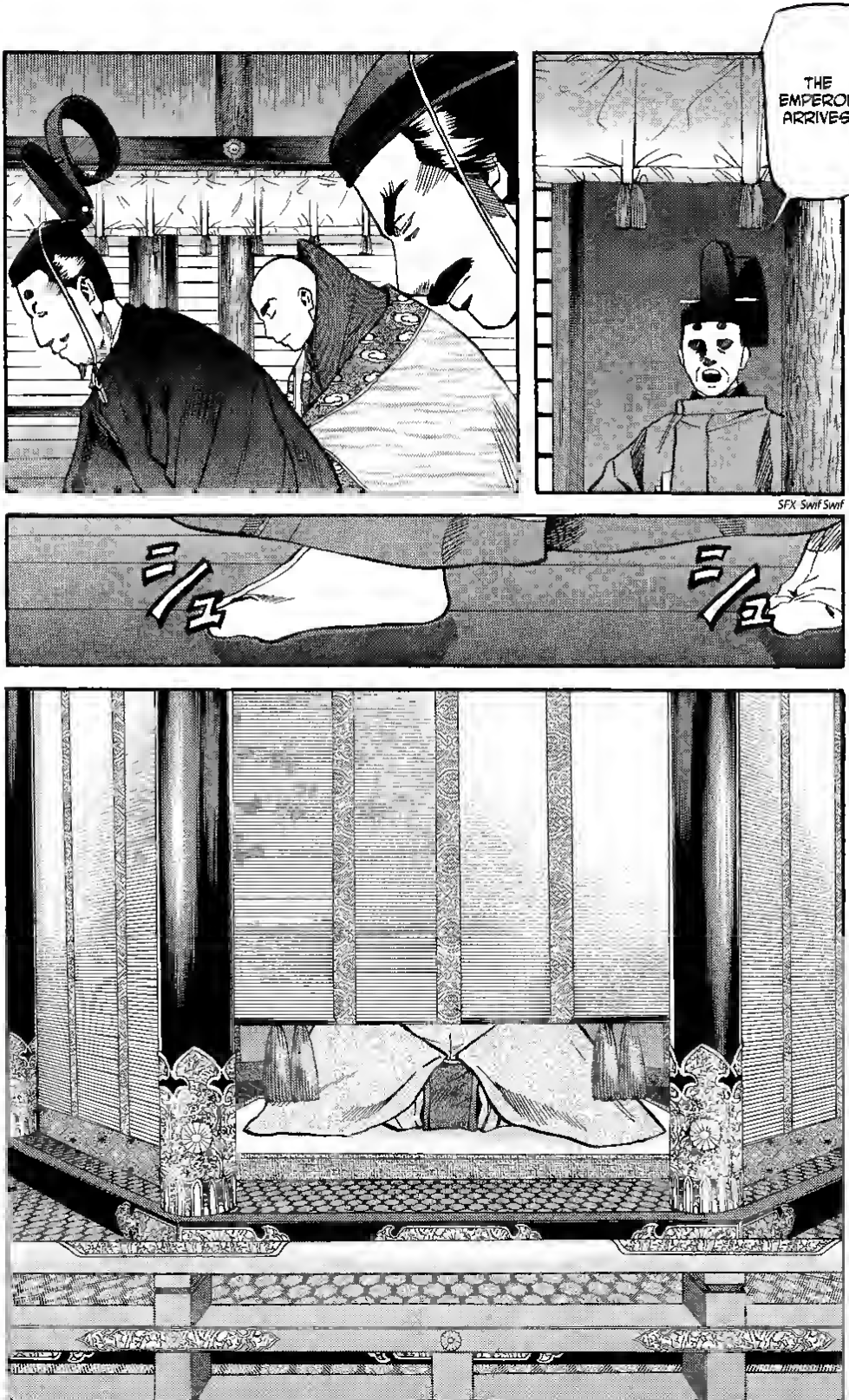

ONE WOULD NEVER GUESS THAT THE IMPERIAL COURT HAD BEEN IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS UP UNTIL JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.


HMM
FULL COURT SPLENDOR.

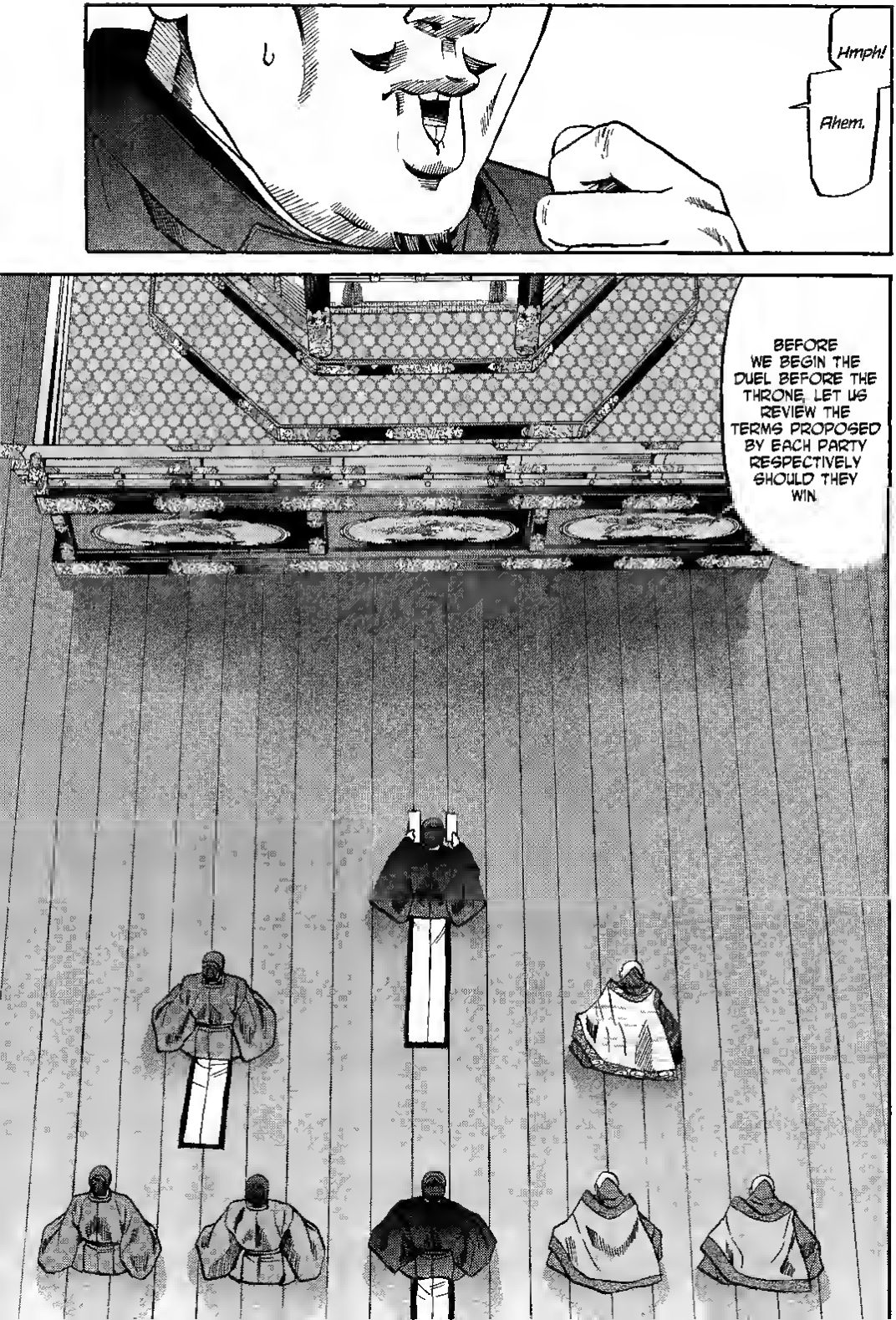

ACTUALLY, THE HONGAN TEMPLE ALSO MADE CONSIDERABLE MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COURT.
AND I ALSO HEAR THAT IT WAS THE HONGAN THAT FINANCED THE CURRENT EMPEROR'S CORONATION CEREMONY BECAUSE HE COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET.

THE ONE WHO SAVED THEM FROM THIS CRISIS WAS OUR LORD, OF COURSE.
THEY HAD *BETTER* NOT FORGET IT.

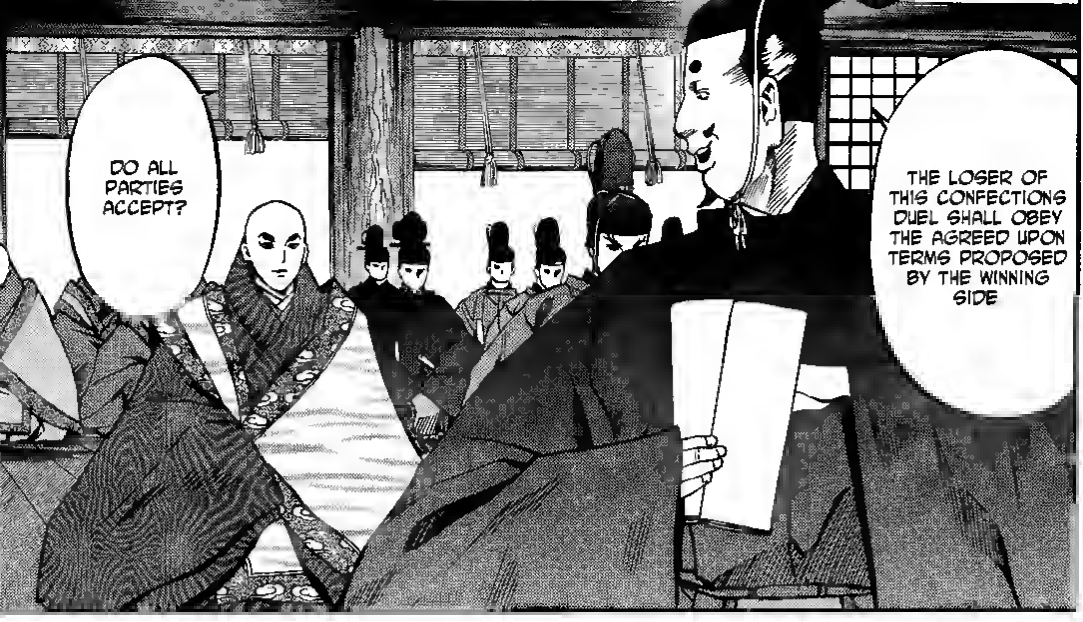
YOU TWO, Shush... THE EMPEROR IS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS APPEARANCE.
I SEE, SO IT WAS SO-SO THEN, Huh...?
SFX: Rattle Rattle
CHEF OF THE ODA CLAN, PLEASE WAIT HERE.
CHEF OF THE HONGAN TEMPLE, PLEASE WAIT HERE...

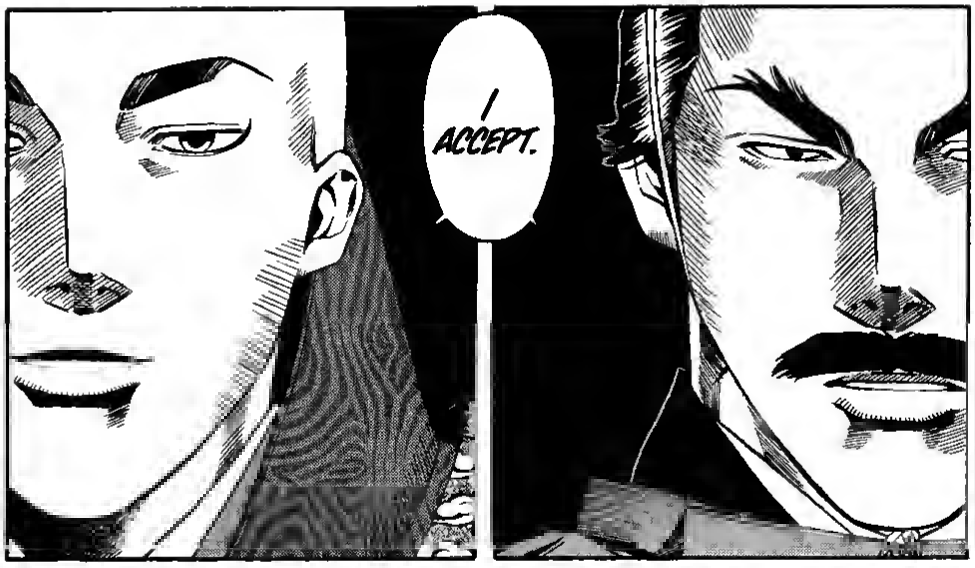

THE EMPEROR ARRIVES...
SFX: Swif Swif

Chapter 49 Youko and Ken


Hmph!
Ahem.
BEFORE WE BEGIN THE DUEL BEFORE THE THRONE, LET US REVIEW THE TERMS PROPOSED BY EACH PARTY RESPECTIVELY SHOULD THEY WIN.

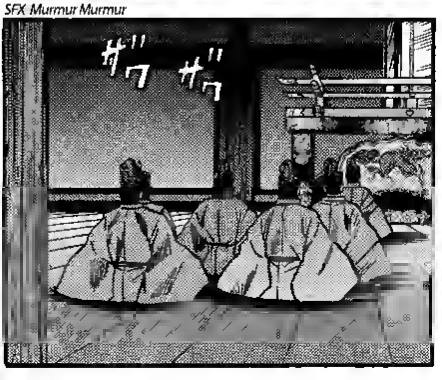
SHOULD THE ODA CLAN PROVE VICTORIOUS, THE HONGAN TEMPLE MUST CEDE TO THE ODA CLAN HALF OF THEIR PROPERTIES.
FIRST, THE ODA CLAN...
SHOULD THE HONGAN TEMPLE PROVE VICTORIOUS, THE ODA CLAN MUST NOT AGGRESS THE HONGAN AND MUST OBEY ANY IMPERIAL EDICTS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS.
NEXT, THE HONG-AN...
SFX: Flip
IN ADDITION, ALL CLAN RETAINERS EMPLOYED IN THE CAPITAL MUST RETIRE.
?!
SFX: Shock

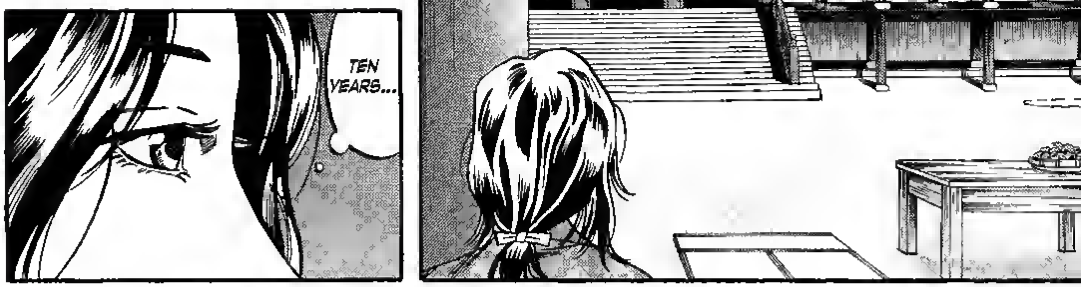


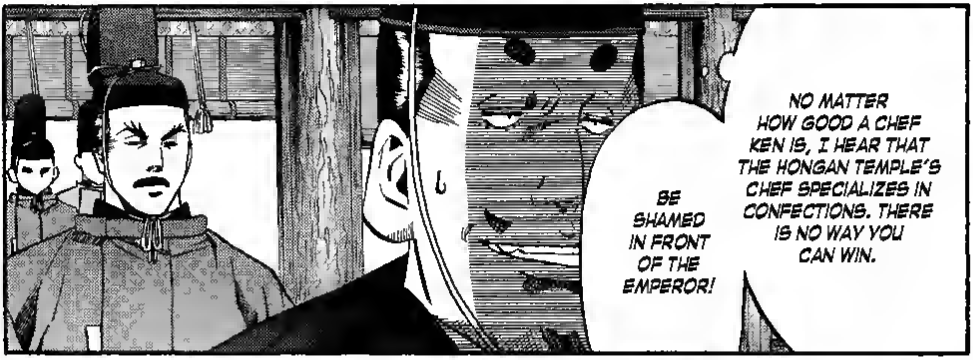


IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE LOSE, WE FORFEIT OUR INFLUENCE IN THE CAPITAL AND IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD...?!
THIS COULD VERY WELL AFFECT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ODA CLAN ITSELF...

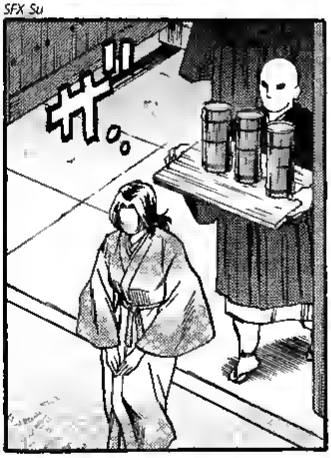
SFX Murmur Murmur

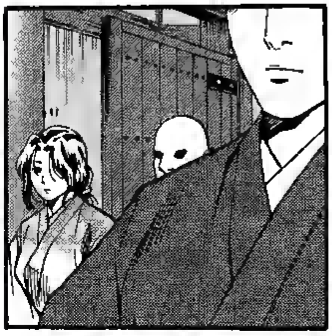



TEN YEARS...


NO MATTER HOW GOOD A CHEF KEN IS, I HEAR THAT THE HONGAN TEMPLE'S CHEF SPECIALIZES IN CONFECTIONS. THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN WIN.
BE SHAMED IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR!

SFX Su





NOW THEN, LET THE DUEL COMMENCE!
CHEFS, COME FORWARD!

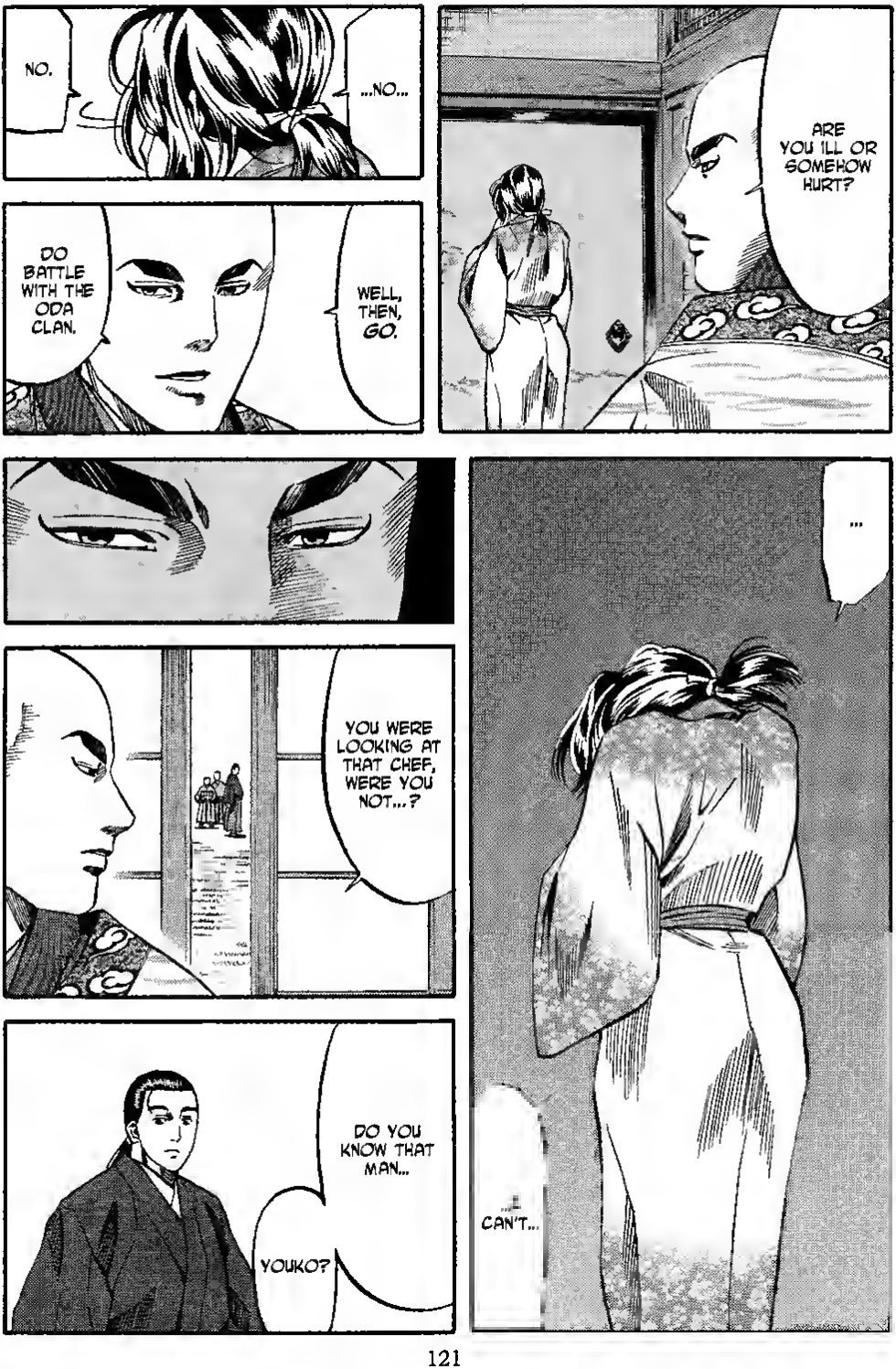
SFX: Carry Carry
TAICHI, PUT THE BAMBOO TUBES ON THE TABLE HERE...
Woah! Y-YES!
Hm?
WHAT IS HAP-PENN-ING...?
WHY HAS THE HONGAN SIDE NOT APPEARED?

YOU-KO...?
ガラ
YOUKO DONO...
WHAT IS THE MATTER, YOUKO DONO?!
AAH... IT CAN'T BE...
IT CAN'T BE...
IT CAN'T BE...!

WHY ---?!
WHY'RE YOU HERE...?

KEN'
ICHI-
ROU!!!

SFX: Murmur Murmur
ザワ
ザワ
I GIVE YOU MY APOLOGIES, BUT I MUST EXCUSE MYSELF FOR A FEW MOMENTS.
PLEASE, AT YOUR DISCRETION.


NO.
...NO...
ARE YOU ILL OR SOMEHOW HURT?
DO BATTLE WITH THE ODA CLAN.
WELL, THEN, GO.
...
YOU WERE LOOKING AT THAT CHEF, WERE YOU NOT...?
DO YOU KNOW THAT MAN...
YOUKO?
CAN'T...

YOUKO...
ハタン
SFX Slam
I DON'T KNOW HIM...
DO YOU KNOW WHY I SPECIFIED *TEN YEARS* IN MY VICTORY TERMS?
IF YOU DO NOT FIGHT, THE HONGAN WILL HAVE HALF OF ITS PROPERTY STOLEN.
BECAUSE *YOU* TOLD ME THAT NOBUNAGA WOULD NOT LIVE MUCH LONGER.

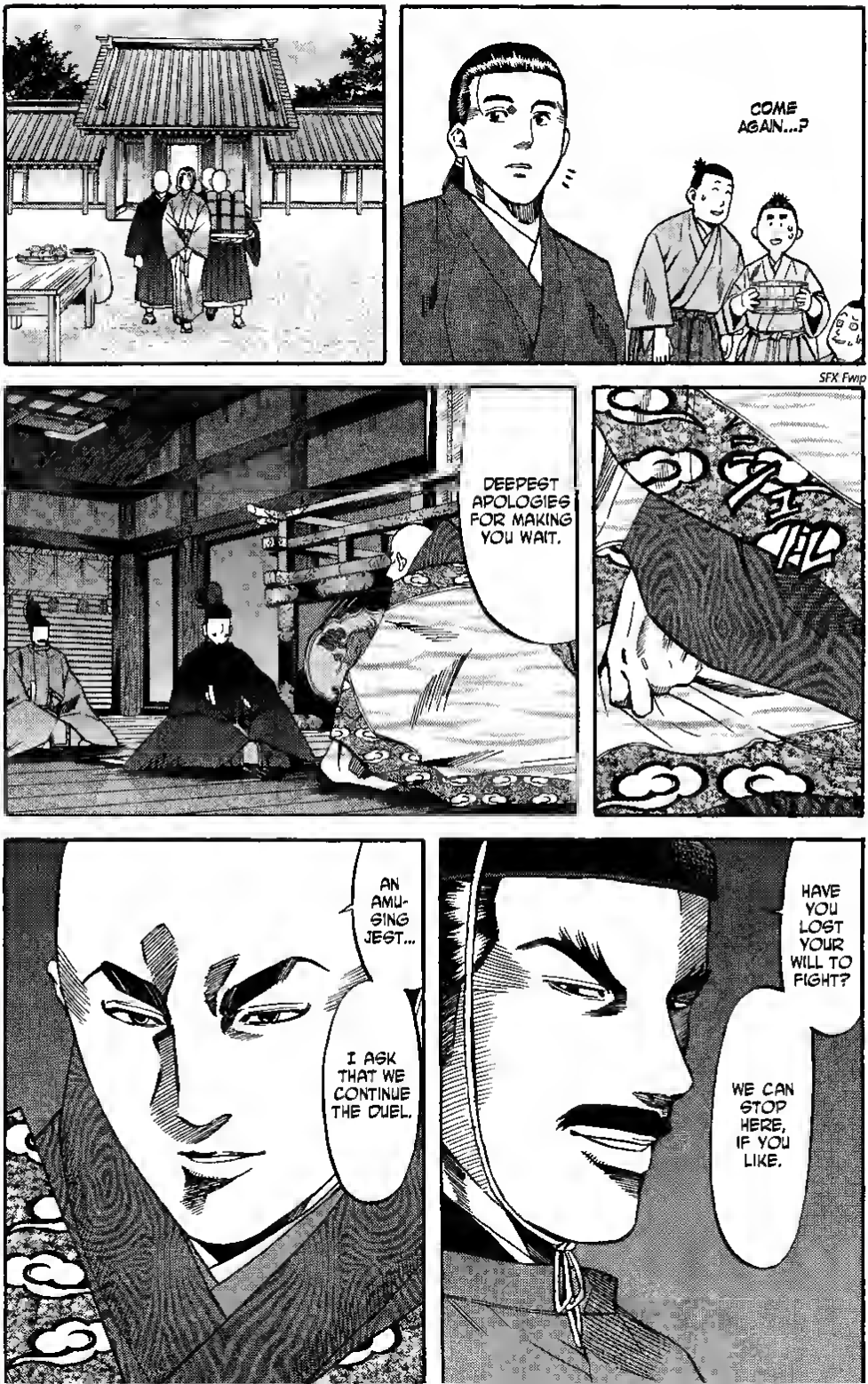
I DO NOT WANT TO LOSE YOU.
YOUKO...
...CHASED OUT OF THE HONGAN TEMPLE...?!
I'LL BE...
ドクン

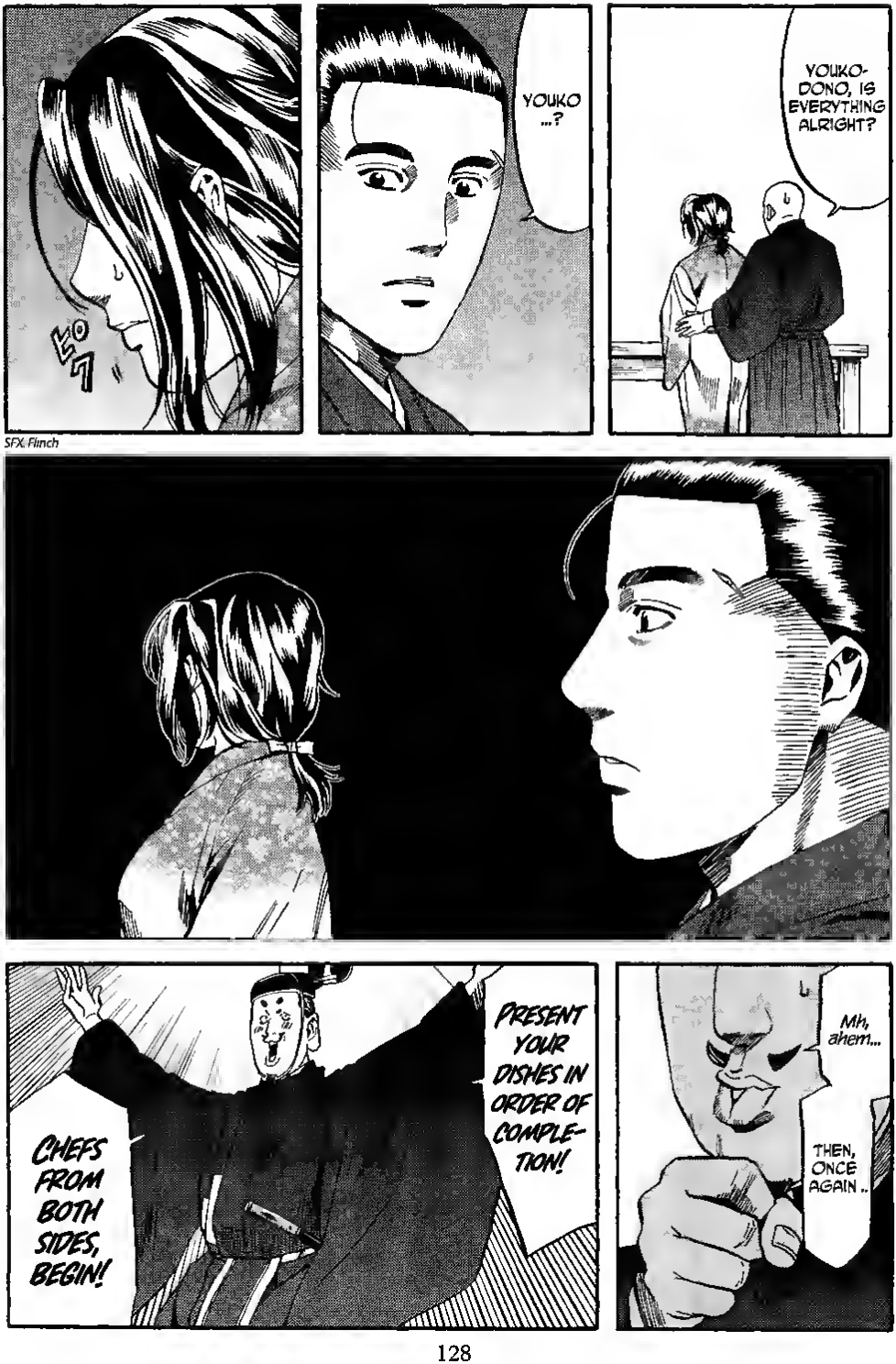
SFX: bathump

ドゥーン
DON'T KILL'ER, TAKE HER!
WAIT, IT'S A GAL, GUYS!!
ドゥーン
ドゥーン
THERE'S A SPY, THISAWAY!
KILL'ER!
SFX Bathump Bathump Bathump Bathump
ドン
SFX Thud
NOO...
PLEASE... PLEASE KENNYO SAMA I BEG YOU...
DON'T THROW ME OUT...

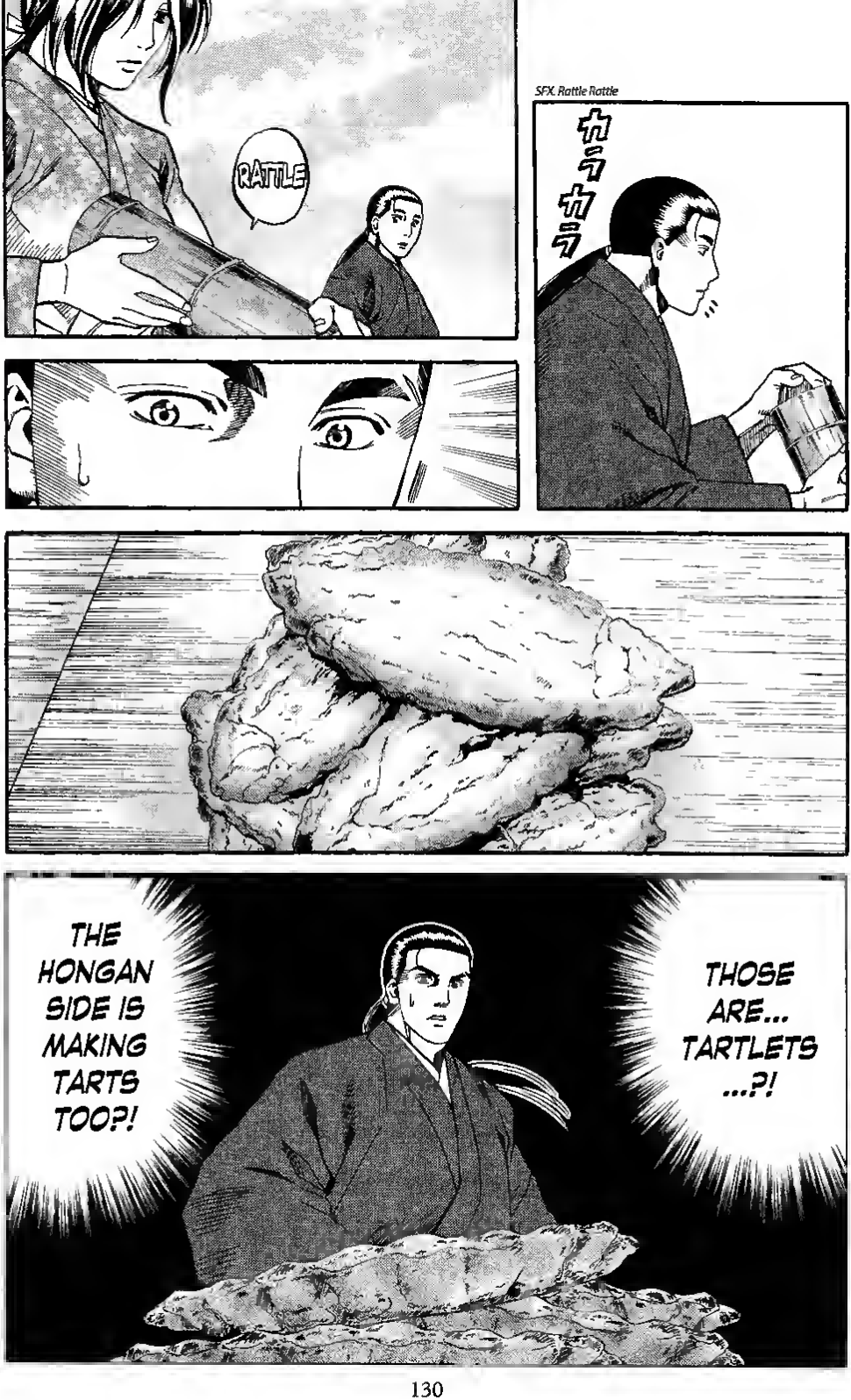
SFX Splish
Ah, THANK YOU.
BO-BOSS, WHILE YOU HAVE SOME TIME, PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS...
THE FRUITS ARE TANGERINES, PERSIMMONS, AND CHESTNUTS, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, BOSS.
Um... BOSS, WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING?

SEASONAL FRUIT TARTS.
TA-TA-RUTO?
YES, THE SECRET INGREDIENT WILL BE...
GURAN-MAE...?
I ADDED SUGAR AND SOAKED TANGERINE PEEL IN THE SHOCHU.
THIS 'ORANGE LIQUEUR' GRAND MARNIER, WHICH WAS MADE WITH RYUKYUAN SHOCHU.
PLOP
THE MOST DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTIC OF MANY WESTERN CONFECTIONS IS THE FULL AROMA OF SPIRITS.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET THE SAME AROMA FROM FRUITS SOAKED IN THE WEAKER JAPANESE SPIRITS, BUT... YES, THIS IS NICELY DONE.


COME AGAIN...?
SFX Fwip
DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
AN AMU-SING JEST...
I ASK THAT WE CONTINUE THE DUEL.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR WILL TO FIGHT?
WE CAN STOP HERE, IF YOU LIKE.


YOUKO ...?
YOUKO-DONO, IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
SFX: Flinch
PRESENT YOUR DISHES IN ORDER OF COMPLE-TION!
CHEFS FROM BOTH SIDES, BEGIN!
Mh, ahem...
THEN, ONCE AGAIN ..

SFX Woosh
THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT...
BUT IF YOU TAKE MORE TIME THAN YOUR OPPONENT, YOU MAKE A WORSE IMPRESSION.
SO I SHOULD MAKE THE TARTS QUICKLY.


RATTLE
SFX. Rattle Rattle
カラカラ
THE HONGAN SIDE IS MAKING TARTS TOO?!
THOSE ARE... TARTLETS ...?!

Chapter 50 Youko's Tart

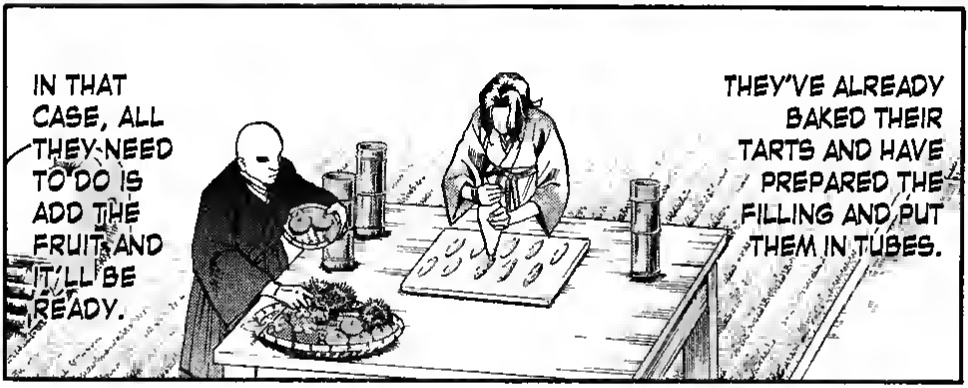
Eh...?
A PASTRY BAG?!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE TO EXIST IN 16TH CENTURY JAPAN.
NO WAY! METAL-TIPPED PASTRY BAGS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN INVENTED AND FIRST USED BY ANTONIN CARÊME, THE KING OF CHEFS AND THE CHEF OF KINGS, INNOVATOR OF THE PIÈCES MONTÉES CAKES, IN THE 19TH CENTURY.
WHICH MEANS THIS WOMAN REALLY IS LIKE ME, FROM!!!
SHE HAD THE METAL HEAD MADE IN A FORGE!
SFX Gasp
Um... BOSS...
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO...?

I NEED TO CONCENTRATE! SO, THE OPPONENT IS MAKING A TART TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DUEL...

AH, YES...

SORRY, WAIT A MOMENT.


IN THAT CASE, ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS ADD THE FRUIT AND IT'LL BE READY.
THEY'VE ALREADY BAKED THEIR TARTS AND HAVE PREPARED THE FILLING AND PUT THEM IN TUBES.

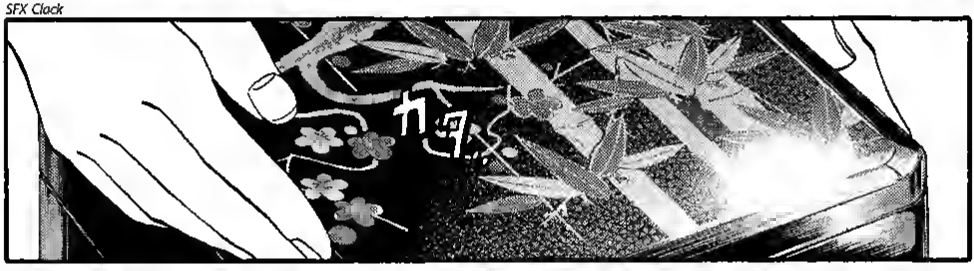
I NEED TO CHANGE MY MENU. WHAT CAN I MAKE WITH WHEAT FLOUR, BUTTER, AND GRAND MARNIER? I NEED SOME KIND OF DESSERT I CAN WHIP UP QUICKLY!
I MADE A MISTAKE ASSUMING I'D HAVE TO MAKE THE DESSERTS FROM SCRATCH HERE!

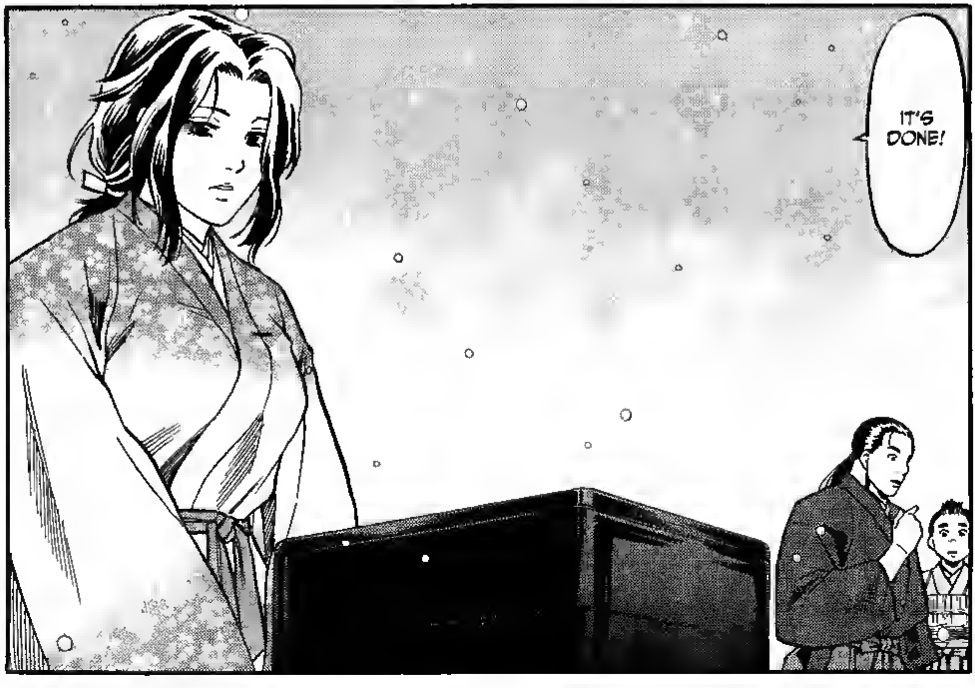
BOSS ...?
YOUKO-DONO, I HAVE FINISHED SLICING THE FRUIT AS YOU INSTRUCTED.
YES...

SFX: Murmur
WHY IS HE NOT MOVING ?!
WHAT IS KEN DOING?
HEHE, IT SEEMS THE HONGAN CHEF WAS MUCH BETTER AT MAKING CONFECTIONS, AS EXPECTED.
IN THIS COLD, THE LONGER WE ARE MADE TO WAIT, THE WORSE OUR DISPOSITION WILL BE.
AND LOOK, A LIGHT SNOW IS BEGINNING TO FALL.

SFX Shiver Shiver

SFX Clack



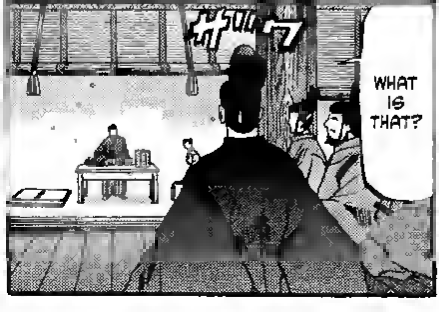


SFX. Clatter

SFX Clack

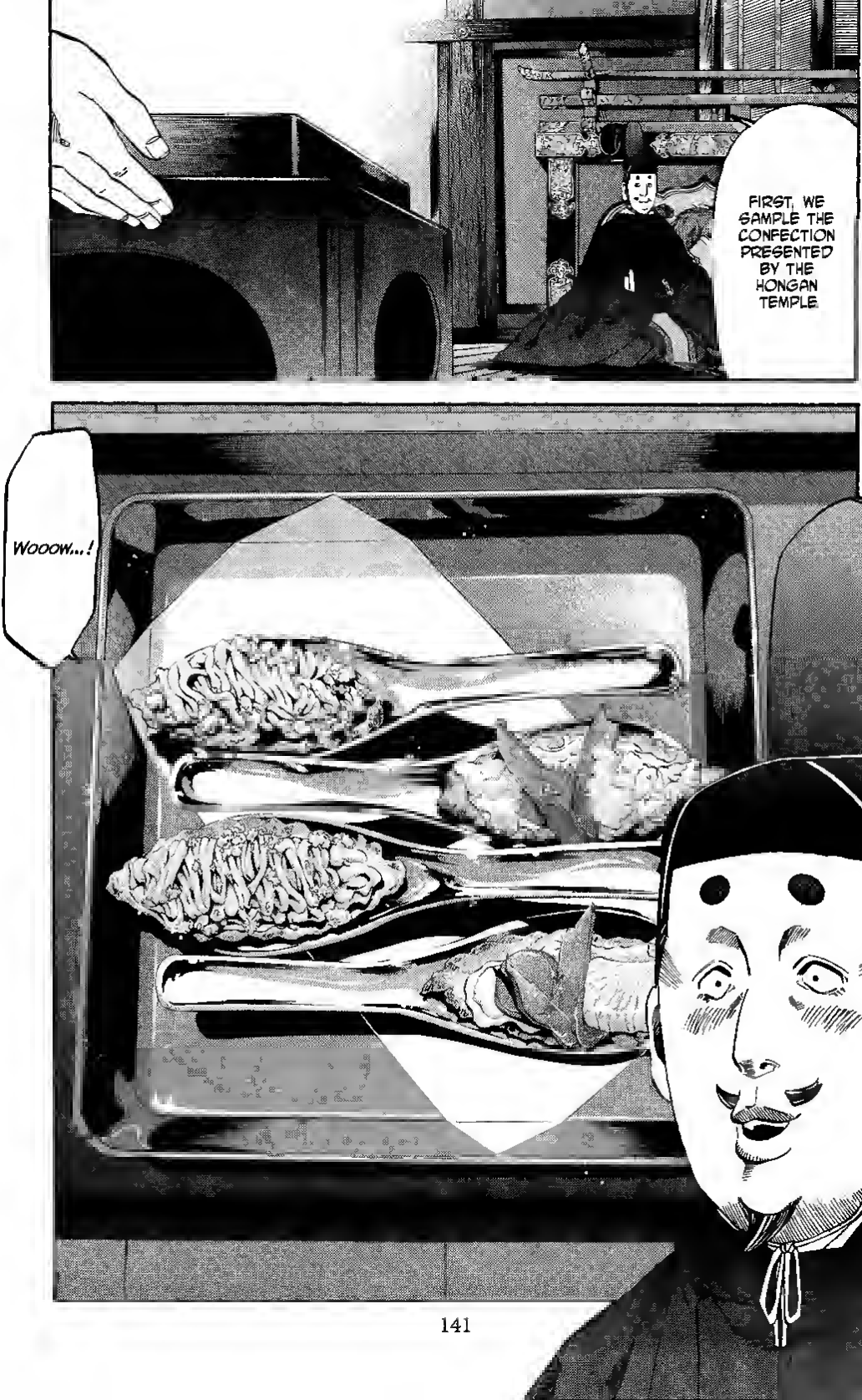
SFX Murmur

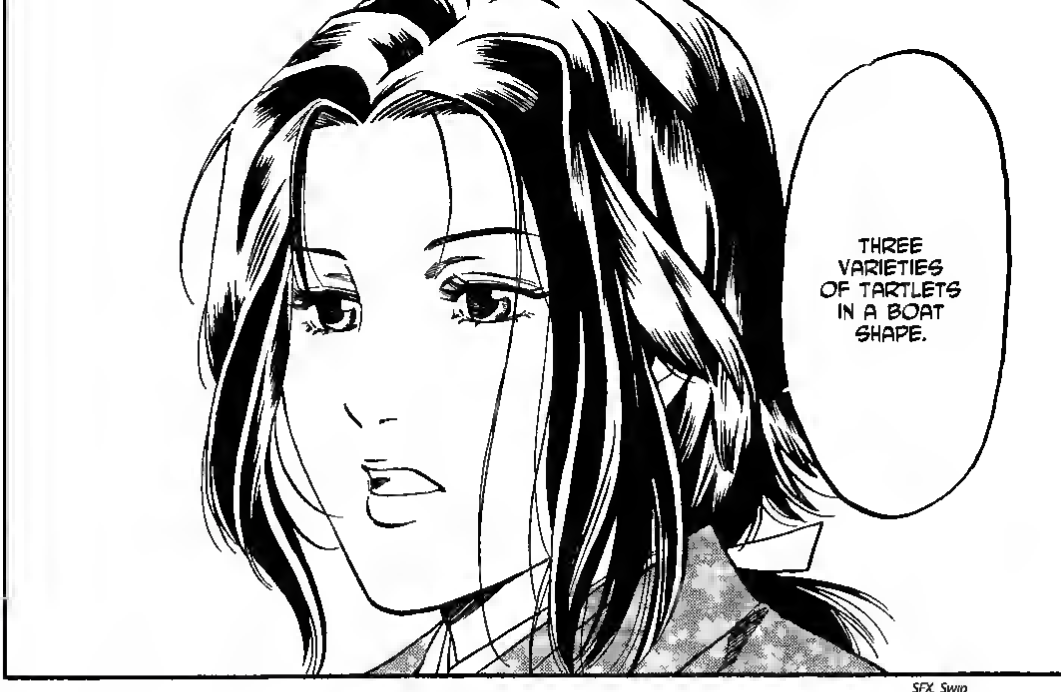
SFX Bow



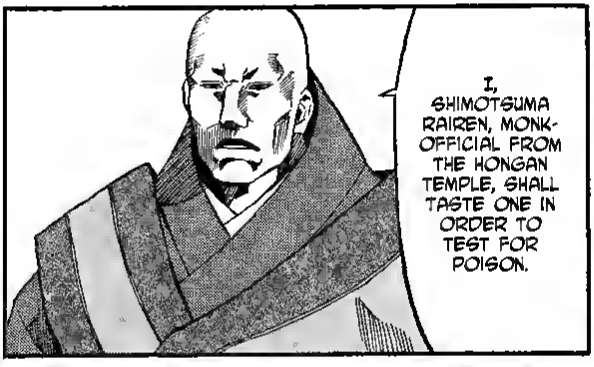
I-I AM DONE FOR. MY HEAD IS GOING TO BE CHOPPED OFF...!
Oh, THAT'S IT...
GOOD JOB, TAICHI!

TAICHI, YOU PEEL THE TANGERINES AND TAKE THE LEAVES OFF THE FRUIT...
YOSUKE, MAKE SOME JUICE AND BOIL IT DOWN AND SLICE SOME OF THE SKIN THINLY.
KINSAN, YOU GET SOME MORE WATER.
Y-YES!
SFX. Woosh
THE HONGAN PRESENTATION IS READY.


FIRST, WE SAMPLE THE CONFECTION PRESENTED BY THE HONGAN TEMPLE.
Wooow...!


THREE VARIETIES OF TARTLETS IN A BOAT SHAPE.

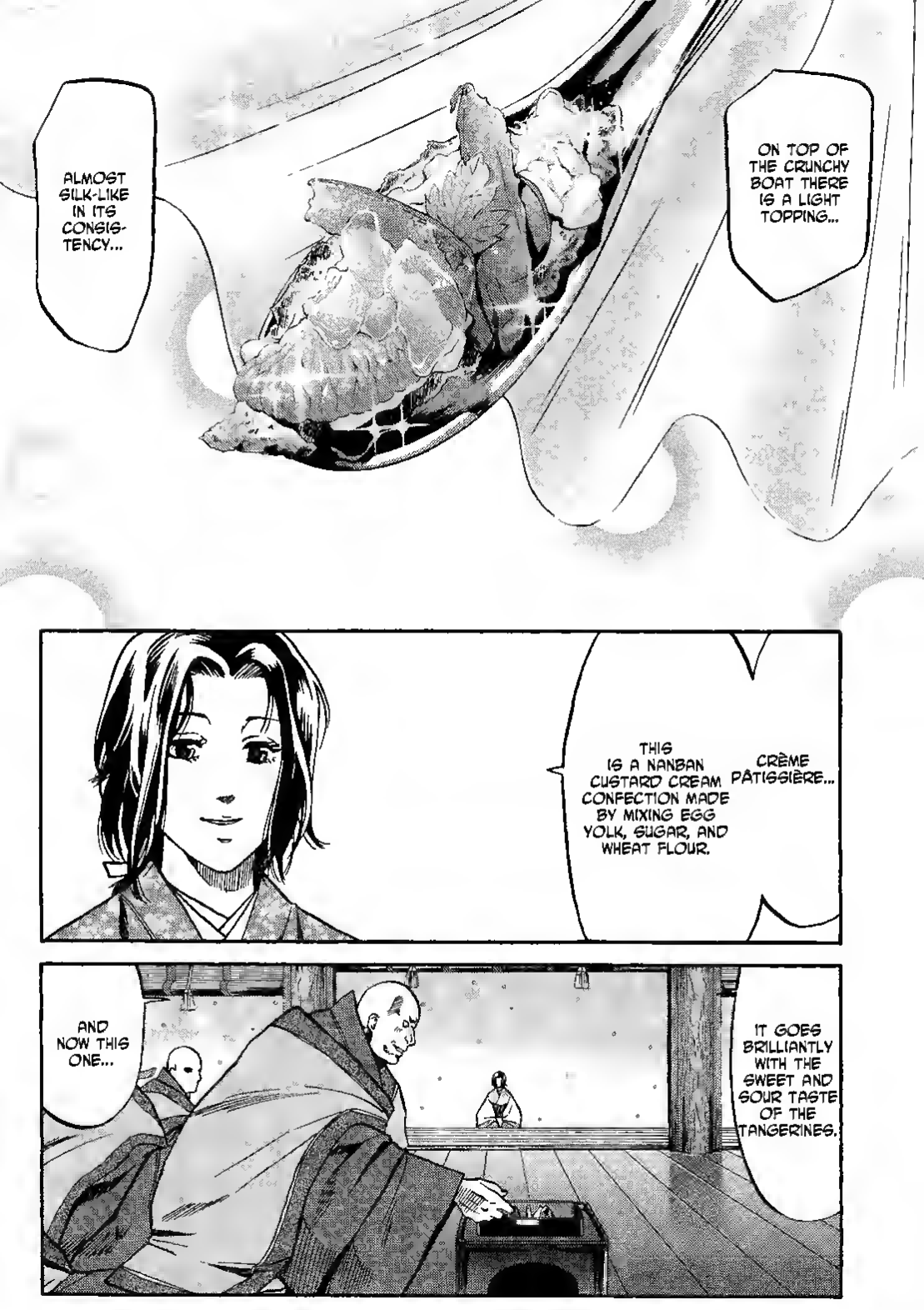
SFX: Swip

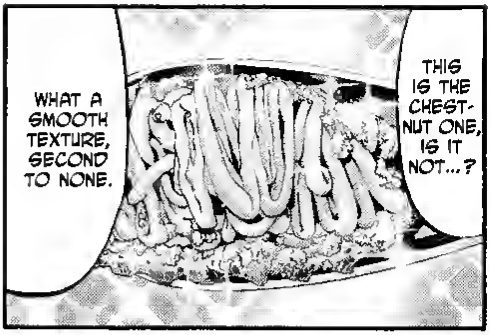

I, SHIMOTSUMA RAIREN, MONK-OFFICIAL FROM THE HONGAN TEMPLE, SHALL TASTE ONE IN ORDER TO TEST FOR POISON.

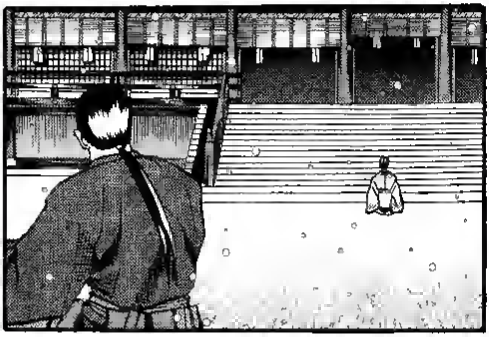
スッ
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...

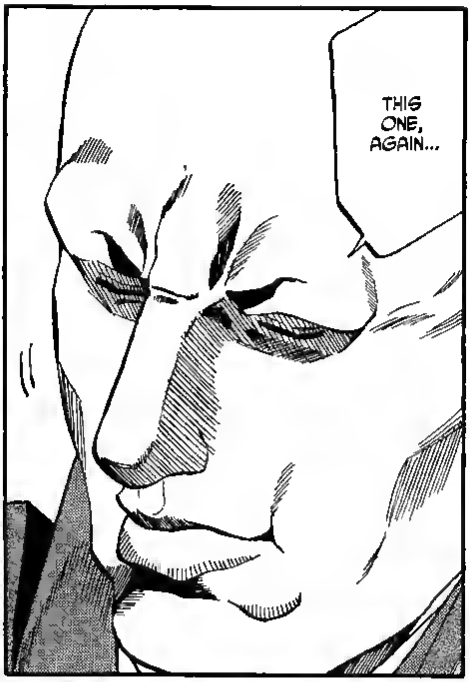
THESE ARE... MING STYLE SPOONS?

SFX. Mmh Mmh
うんうん
SUCH ATTENTION TO DETAIL...
TRULY COMMENDABLE.
YES, THOSE ARE PROVIDED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE TARTS EASIER TO EAT WITHOUT THE NEED TO DIRTY YOUR HANDS.
SFX. Nom
SFX. Crunch
THIS IS...!
MM-GH...!


ALMOST SILK-LIKE IN ITS CONSIS-TENCY...
ON TOP OF THE CRUNCHY BOAT THERE IS A LIGHT TOPPING...
THIS IS A NANBAN CUSTARD CREAM CONFECTION MADE BY MIXING EGG YOLK, SUGAR, AND WHEAT FLOUR.
CRÈME PÂTISSIÈRE...
AND NOW THIS ONE...
IT GOES BRILLIANTLY WITH THE SWEET AND SOUR TASTE OF THE TANGERINES.


WHAT A SMOOTH TEXTURE, SECOND TO NONE.
THIS IS THE CHEST-NUT ONE, IS IT NOT...?




THIS ONE, AGAIN...

SO THE OTHER BAMBOO TUBES WERE FILLED WITH CUSTARD CREAM AND CHESTNUT PASTE...

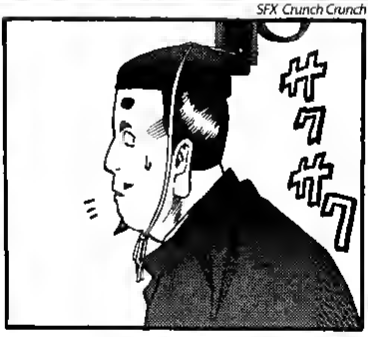
A MONT BLANC TART, HUH?
CHESTNUT...

I WON'T WIN IF I JUST TRY TO MAKE AN EQUALLY DELICIOUS DESSERT.
SHE ALSO MANAGED TO MAKE A WIDE GAP IN PREP TIME.

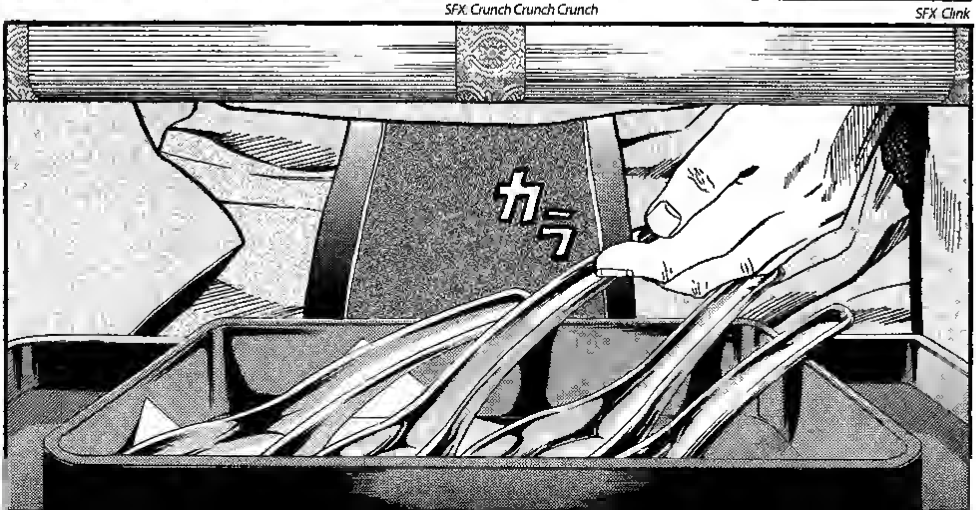
SFX Gulp

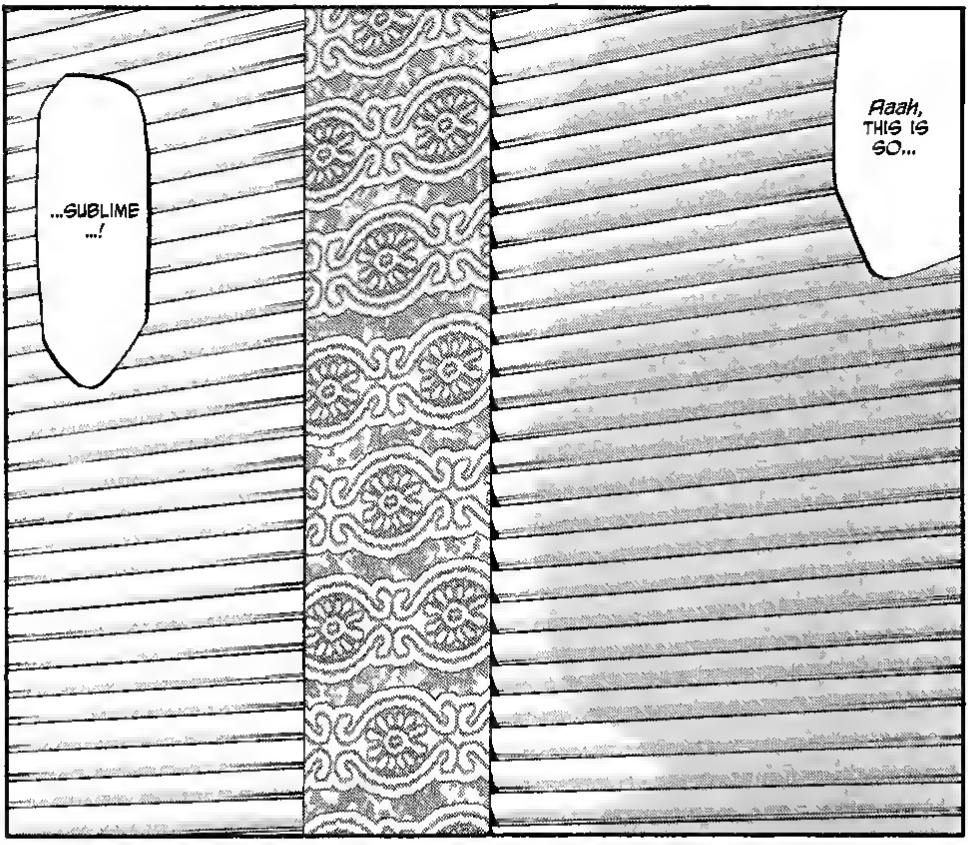
SFX Crunch Crunch

SFX Crunch Crunch Crunch

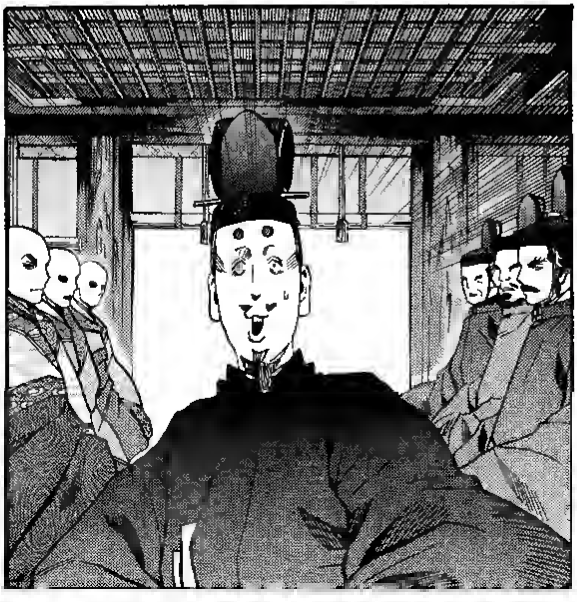


SFX Clink

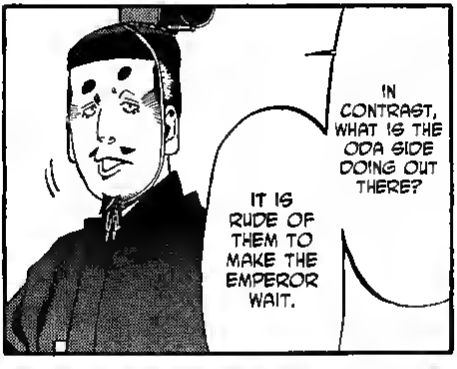


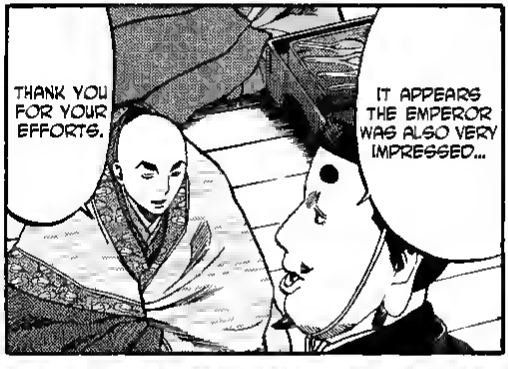

...SUBLIME ...!
Aaah, THIS IS SO...

THE EMPEROR LET A SIGH OF APPRECIATION ESCAPE HIS LIPS...!



THAT WAS WONDERFUL, HONGAN PARTICIPANT!
YOU MAY WITH-DRAW!


IN CONTRAST, WHAT IS THE ODA SIDE DOING OUT THERE?
IT IS RUDE OF THEM TO MAKE THE EMPEROR WAIT.


THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.
IT APPEARS THE EMPEROR WAS ALSO VERY IMPRESSED...

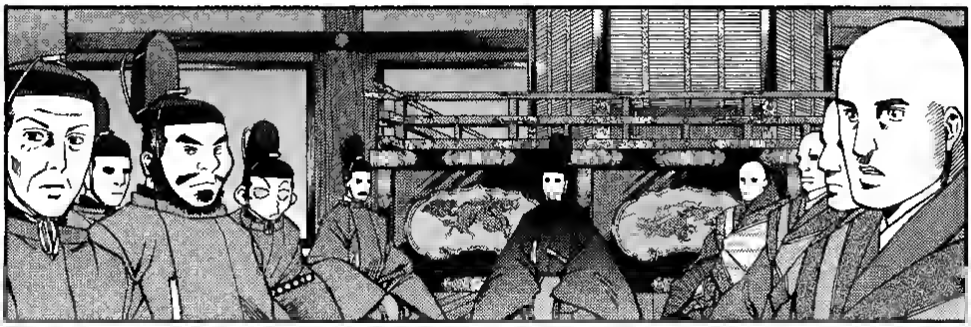
KEN...
Kuh...

BOSS...
SFX Sizzle
치이이

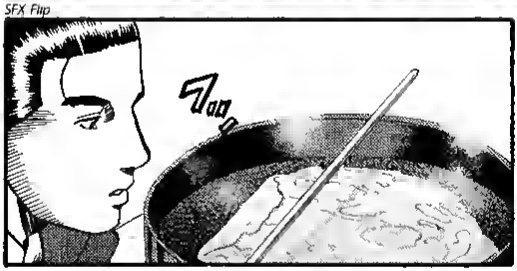
SFX: Slizzh
PERFECT!
Hm...
Huh?
WHAT...?!

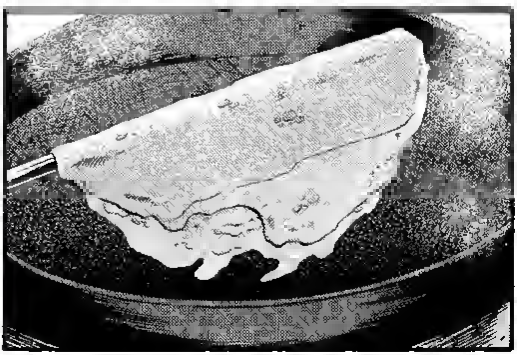
Chapter 51

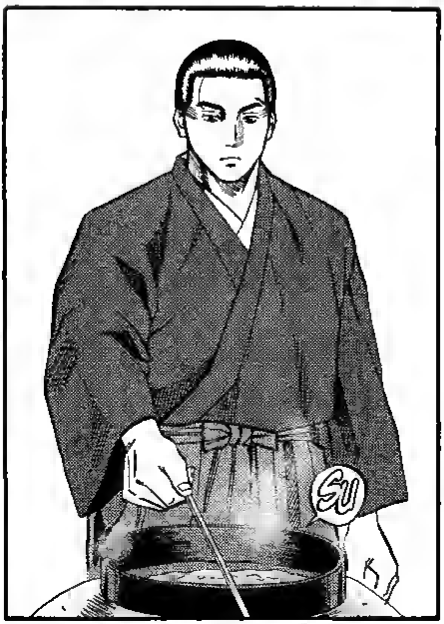
SFX Sszzzzz



SFX Flip





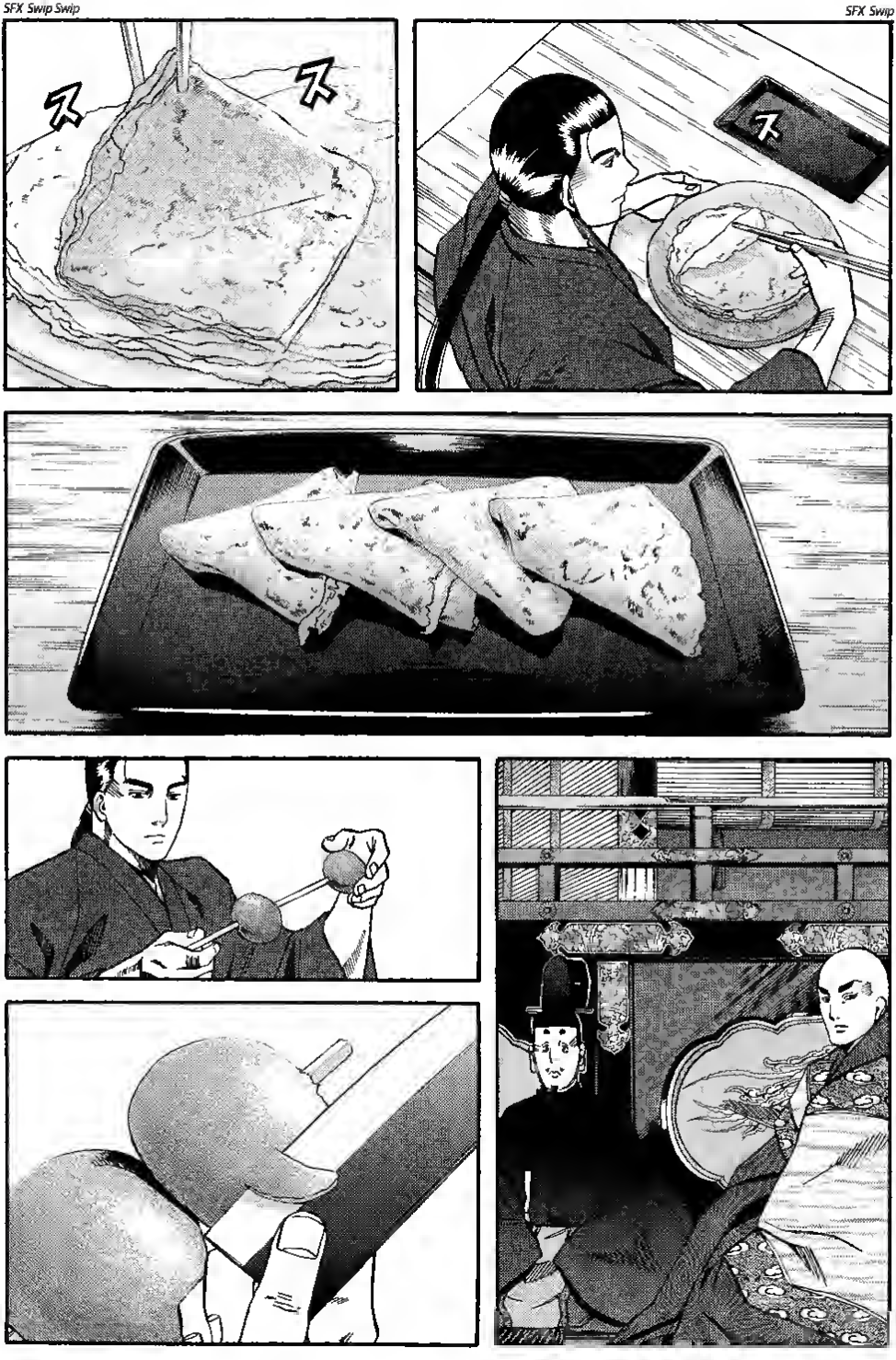


Chapter 51 The Rippling Confection

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!
IT LOOKED LIKE A THIN CLOTH...
Wooah ?!
SFX Szzzzle
Um... BOSS, WHAT IS THIS EXACTLY ...?
AH, YES, SIR!
KINSAN, GIVE ME ANOTHER PIECE OF BUTTER.
IT'S A CRÊPE.

SO TAICHI, THANK YOU.
THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE WORD CRÊPE IS 'CURLED', SO CALLED BECAUSE THE CRÊPE CURLS, LIKE A RIPPLING WAVE.
IT'S MADE BY QUICKLY PAN FRYING BATTER MADE WITH BUTTER, FLOUR, AND WATER.
I CAME UP WITH THIS AFTER SEEING THE WATER RIPPLING IN THE CONTAINER OF WATER YOU DROPPED, TAICHI.
SFX Szzzzle
SFX Ssz
THE ODA SIDE'S CONFECTION IS READY.
WE'LL PRESENT IT NOW.
SFX: Lift

Hm-mm?!
Hm?
NO, I'LL PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON HERE.
WHAT IS WITH THIS SIMPLISTIC THING.
THAT IS ALL?!


ス
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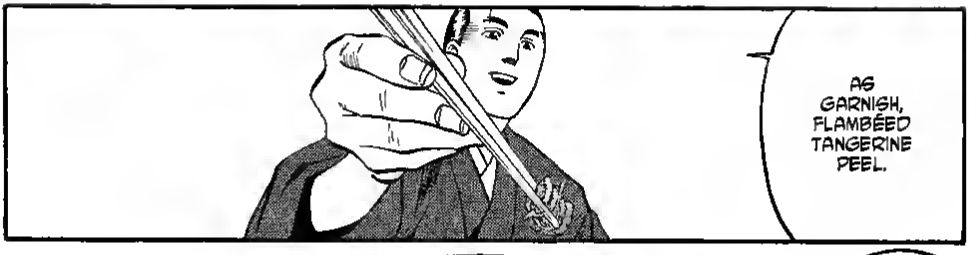
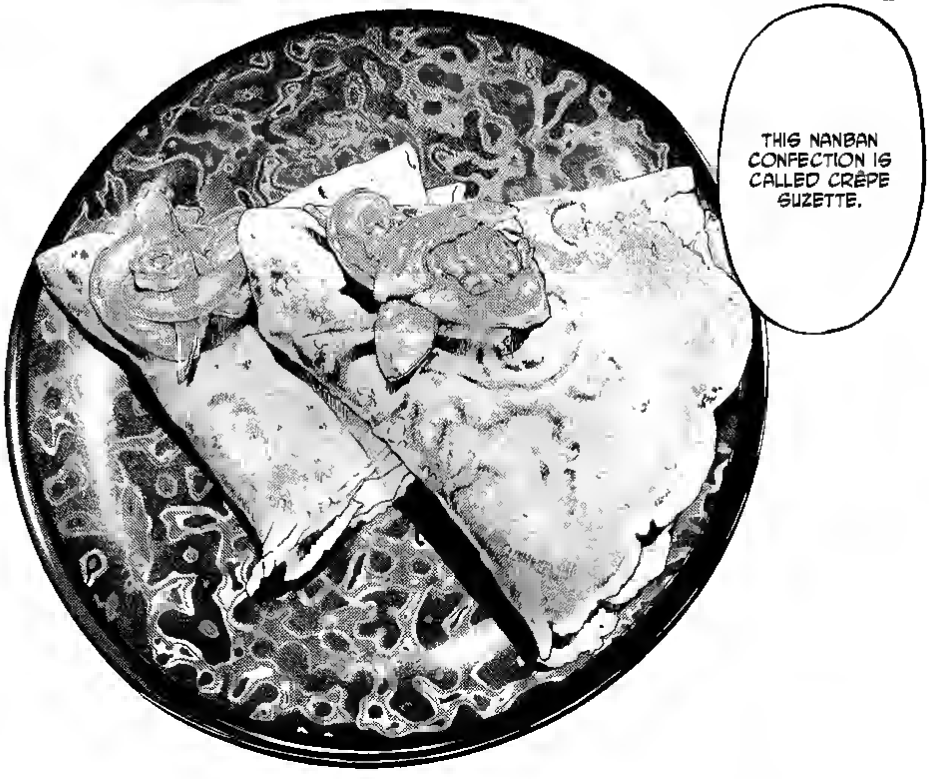
YE-YES.
KINGAN, THE HEATED GRAND MARNIER, PLEASE.
SFX: Flash
ポ

A CRÊPE SUZETTE!

...


AS GARNISH, FLAMBÉED TANGERINE PEEL.

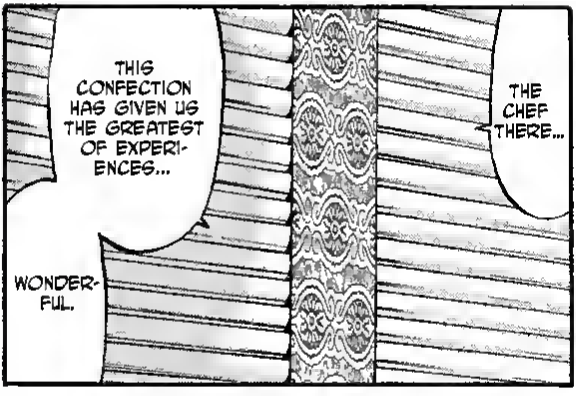

THIS NANBAN CONFECTION IS CALLED CRÊPE SUZETTE.

TH-THEN, I, KINOSHITA TOUKICHIROU HIDEYOSHI, VASSAL OF THE ODA CLAN, SHALL PERFORM THE POISON TEST.
SFX: Gasp
Ah
Aah
IT'S A DESSERT THAT ENGAGES THE EYES, THE EARS, THE NOSE, THE TONGUE, AND THE LIPS--ALL FIVE SENSES.
COMPARED TO OUR ENTRY, THIS ONE HAS A MORE IMMINENT PRESENTATION... A LA MINUTE.
KEN'? CHIROU.
AAH, IT REALLY IS YOU, ISN'T IT...?
BUT HE'S MORE SKILLED AS A CHEF AND IN HIS USE OF THE FLAME...
IN TERMS OF MY SWEET MAKING SKILLS, I STILL BEAT HIM...

Mh, mmmh --nh!
THIS RICH, POWERFUL FLAVOR...

HE TURNED THE COLD TO HIS ADVANTAGE ...!
A WARM CONFECTION...
TRULY SUPERB ...!
THE WARM SWEETNESS SPREADS THROUGH THE BODY...
KUUUUK! I WANT SOME TOO...!
WHY WAS I NOT PROPOSED AS A POISON TESTER, DAMMIT...
THE HONGAN IS ONE THING, BUT FOR KEN'S FOOD TO BE SO UNIMAGINABLY GOOD TOO...

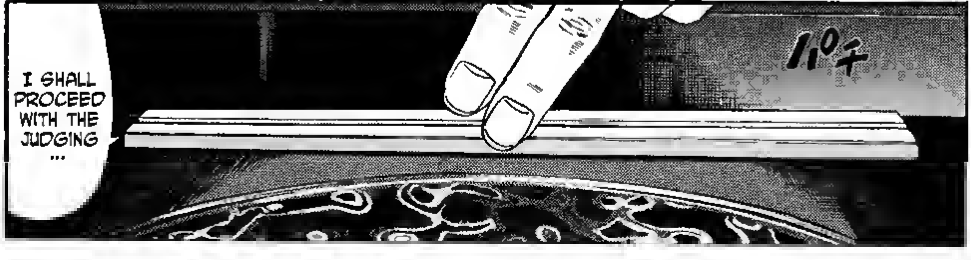
AGAIN, THIS IS SOMETHING MORE DELICIOUS THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE EATEN BEFORE...


THIS CONFECTION HAS GIVEN US THE GREATEST OF EXPERI-ENCES...
THE CHEF THERE...
WONDER-FUL.

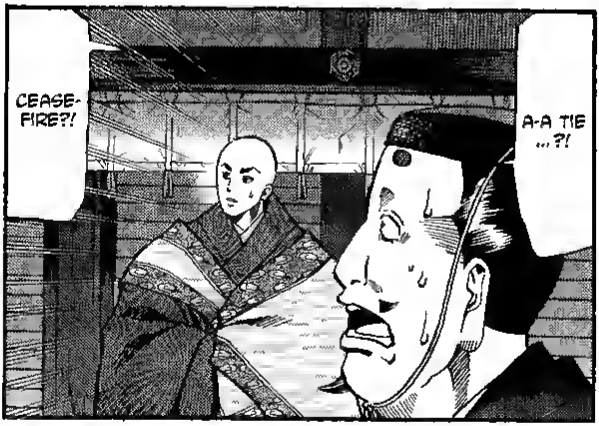
YOUR MAJ-ESTY...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

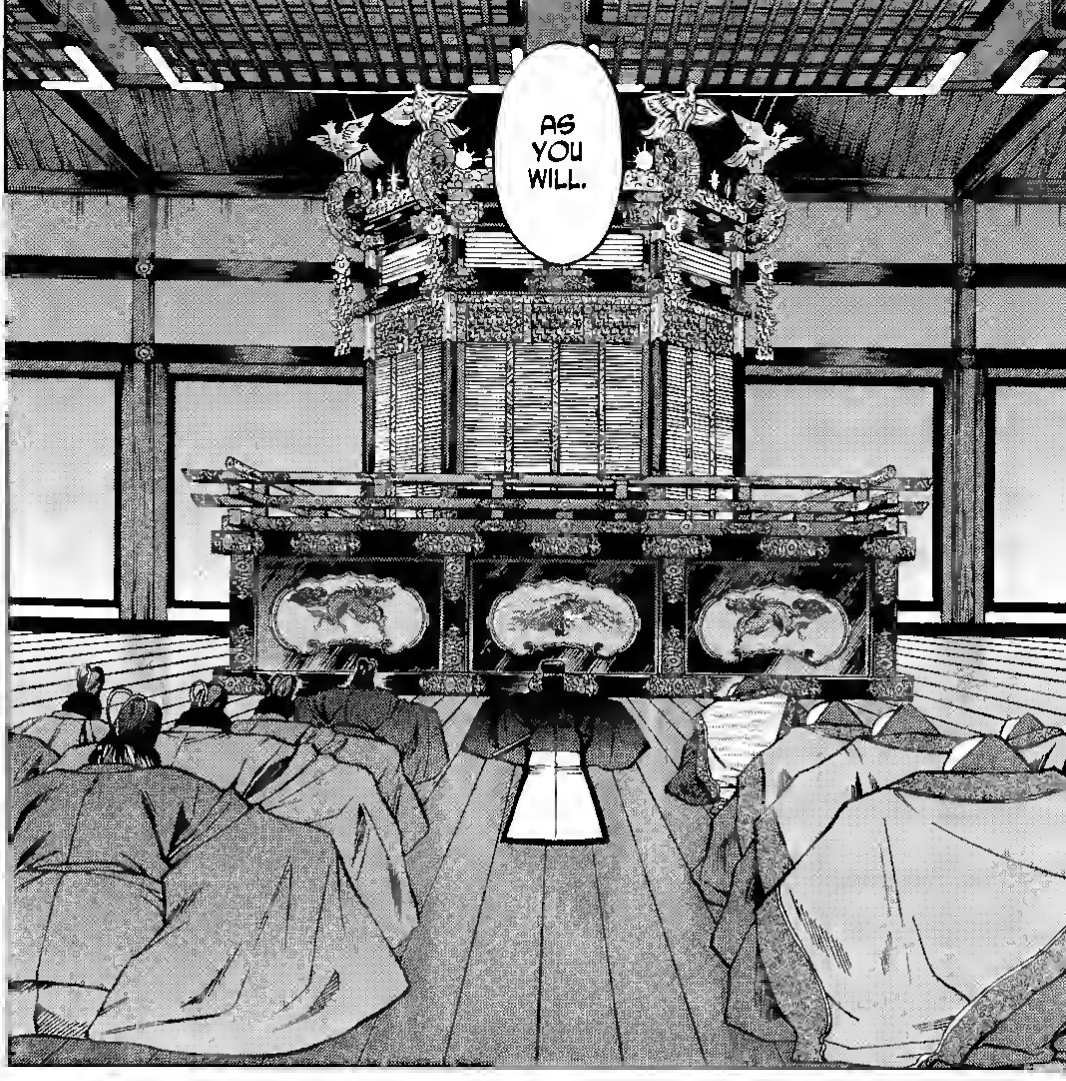
SFX Clack

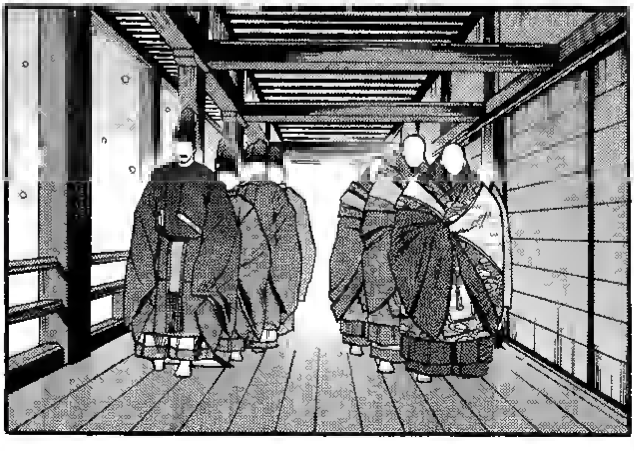

I SHALL PROCEED WITH THE JUDGING ...

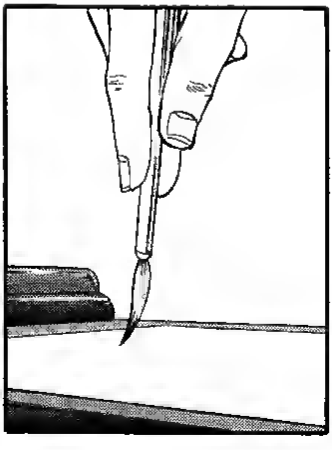
IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE A CLEAR JUDGEMENT ON EACH SIDE..
THEREFORE, BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED A DRAW. WE ORDER THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, AND NO TERMS SHALL BE IMPOSED.


A-A TIE ...?!
CEASE-FIRE?!

SO THAT IS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER...


AS YOU WILL.





SFX: Woosh
YOU MIGHT HAVE FOILED US THIS TIME...
...BUT I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT CONFRONTATION, ODA-DONO.
WE FOILED THEM, HE SAYS...?
IS IT POSSIBLE THIS DRAW WAS WHAT YOU WERE AIMING FOR?
TO WHOM DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TALKING...
...SARU?

HE WOULD NOT BE EAGER TO ANTAGONIZE EITHER SIDE.
THE EMPEROR IS RECEIVING VAST SUPPORT FROM BOTH OF THESE MEN...
I SEE NOW...
AH, OF COURSE, OF COURSE.
SO THE RESULT OF THIS DUEL WAS DECIDED FROM THE MOMENT THE HONGAN TEMPLE ACCEPTED IT.
HE TRUSTED THAT WITH KEN, THERE WOULD NOT BE A CLEAR LOSS.
NOBUNAGA LED THE EMPEROR TO DECLARE A DRAW BY CHOOSING A COOKING CONTEST, SINCE IT IS DIFFICULT TO CLEARLY JUDGE THE WINNER.
NEXT IS ASA-KURA.
WELL THEN, WE HAVE RID OURSELVES OF ONE...

YOUKO-SAN?!
YOUKO-SAN...
WHY NOW ...?!
YOUKO-SAN!
DID SHE LEAVE ALREADY ...?!
NO, I DON'T KNOW HER...
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
BOSS, THAT LADY... IS SHE SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

Ah...
YOUKO-DONO, WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
KENNYO-SAMA IS WAITING FOR YOU.

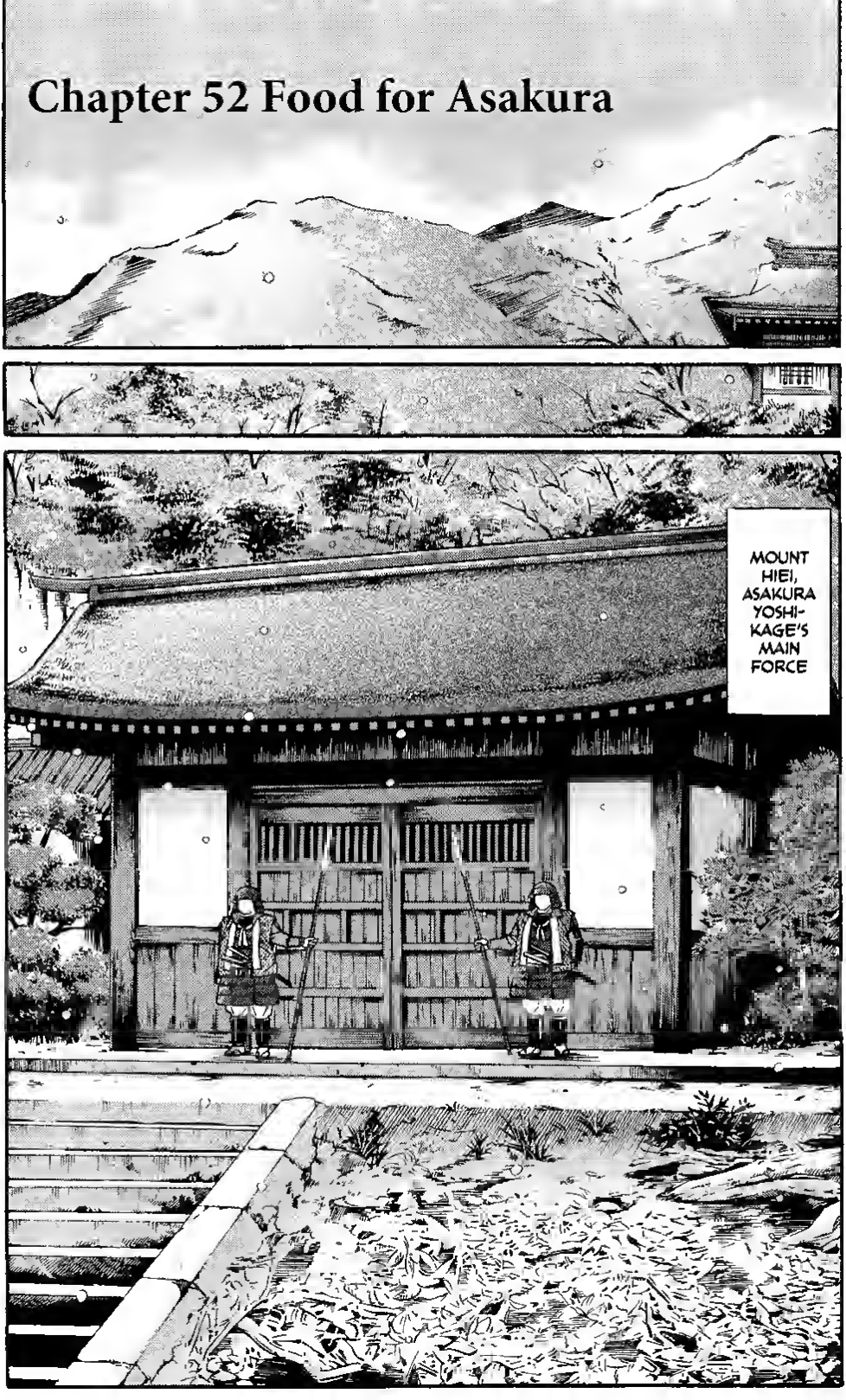
...DOESN'T KNOW ME?!
HE...

KEN'ICHIROU, DID YOU...?!

Eh...?

WAS SHE ONE OF MY FRIENDS?
YOUKO... WHO EXACTLY IS SHE?

Chapter 52 Food for Asakura



SFX Shiver
IT HAS BEEN THREE MONTHS ALREADY SINCE LORD ASAKURA HAD US SET UP CAMP AT THIS TEMPLE...
YET THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANY BATTLE HAPPENING.
Brr... SO COLD ...
Huh, SO IT IS GOING BE A DRAWN OUT WAR...
I WONDER WHEN WE WILL GET TO RETURN TO ECHIZEN...
REALLY?
Nah, THERE WERE A BUNCH OF INVITATIONS SENT BY THE ODA SIDE TO ARRANGE A DECISIVE BATTLE...
BUT I HEAR OUR LORD JUST REFUSED THEM ALL.
SFX Rumble
Oh! THEY ARE HERE, THEY ARE HERE!
IT IS THE MERCH-ANTS!
YOU KNOW, WHAT REALLY BUGS ME IS HEARING THAT THE SOLDIERS' RATIONS ARE RUNNING OUT...
Hm?

TODAY WE COME WITH COOKING TO SELL YOU.
WE ARE PEDDLERS FROM KATADA TOWN AT THE BASE OF MOUNT HIEI.
DANG
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?!
SFX: Crrrrk
キィィィィ
YOU MAY PASS.
SFX: Grin
GOOD.
...HOPING TO MAKE PROFITS FROM WARTIME NEEDS.
IN THIS ERA, MERCHANTS SELLING FOOD, COOKING, OR WEAPON REPAIRS SERVICES, FLOCKED TO ARMY CAMPS AS SOON AS THEY HEARD THERE WOULD BE PROTRACTED WARS...

BIG!
HUH?
NOPE, WE CAN'T HAND IT OVER JUST YET.
WE'LL BUY ALL YOU HAVE. PUT IT IN THIS POT FOR NOW.
I PLAN TO PREPARE THE FOOD FOR YOU.
YOU MEAN HERE?!
WE CANNOT LET YOU DO THAT!
WE'LL BE MAKING BOILED SECHI...
THE RICE CAKES WILL BE MUCH SOFTER IF WE PREPARE THEM FRESHLY.

SFX Gulp
Uh... VERY WELL THEN. MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT DRAW ATTENTION.
Mh, RICE CAKES ...
THE SNOW IS STARTING TO FALL...
IT IS ALMOST THE NEW YEAR...
General-in-Command of the Asakura forces
ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE
SFX Clatter
THAT DAMN ODA IS ATTACKING!
SO- SOME-ONE IS AT THE GATE!
AND THERE IS SMOKE!
Hm?

SFX: Patter Patter Patter
Hmm?!
SFX: Jostle Jostle
GIMME SOME TOO!
MY TURN!
HEY! WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?!
SFX: Grab
THESE MEN HAVE ALL LEFT THEIR POSITIONS ...
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT IS WITH THE COMMO-TION?

SFX Shock
?!
SFX Sniff
Huh, SEICHI?!
Ah... APOLOGIES... SOME KATADA MERCHANTS CAME TO SELL SECHI...
RE-REGARD-LESS, YOU THERE, PEDDLER!
FIRE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN IN THIS AREA!
?
...?!

I'M TRULY SORRY FOR THAT...
I'LL LEAVE THE REST OF THE SECHI HERE, AS AN APOLOGY, SO PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES...
SFX Perk
SFX Pace Pace
Oh, oh, IS THAT SO.
IT IS NOT ODA'S FORCES. THERE IS A MERCHANT FROM ONE OF THE MOUNTAIN BASE VILLAGES.
MY LORD...
SFX Phew
THEY WERE SELLING THIS.

SECHI?
YES, SIR.
DID YOU TRY IT TOO?
Hmm.
THE SOLDIERS WERE RAVING ABOUT HOW DELICIOUS IT WAS.
THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME THAT I HAVE EATEN SECHI ON A BATTLEFIELD.
THEN I SHALL HAVE SOME AS WELL.
TH-THIS IS...
?!

SECHI FROM ECHIZEN?!

LISTEN WELL, KEN. WE NEED TO APPEASE ASAKURA BEHIND AZAI'S BACK.
TO DO THAT, WE NEED TO SPLIT THE AZAI AND ASAKURA FORCES.

WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONVERTING SOME FOOTSOLDIERS FROM MOUNT HIEI'S KATADA VILLAGE TO OUR CAUSE.
THEY SHOULD BE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MOUNT HIEI'S TOPOGRAPHY.

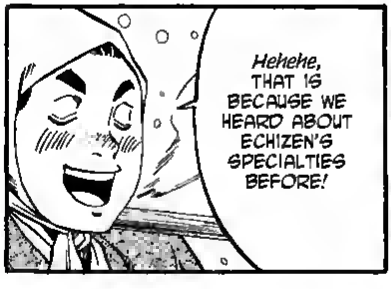
I WANT YOU TO CLIMB MOUNT HIEI WITH THEM....
...AND SEEK OUT ASAKURA WITHOUT ATTRACTING AZAI'S ATTENTION, AND MAKE THEM DESERT THE MOUNTAIN
SFX: Munch Munch
THEY HAVE ALREADY DEPLETED THEIR RICE RESERVES, AND I HEAR THEIR SOLDIERS ARE GROWING WEARY.
AZAI IS ANOTHER MATTER BUT THE SMALL FRY SERVING ASAKURA WILL BE EXHAUSTED. HAVING EXPECTED A SHORT BATTLE BEFORE HEADING BACK TO ECHIZEN TO RESUME THEIR OWN LIVES.
GO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW!

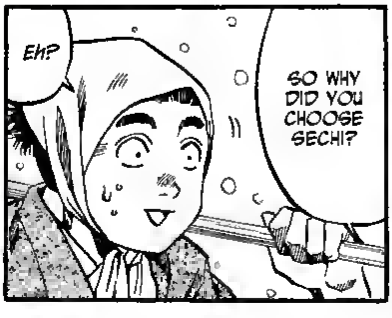
W-WHAT IS THAT?!
YES, SIR. ALL THE MEN WHO ATE IT WERE OVERCOME WITH NOSTALGIA.

IF THE SOLDIERS EAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
THEN THEY WILL ALL BE HOME SICK!
SFX. Slam

...

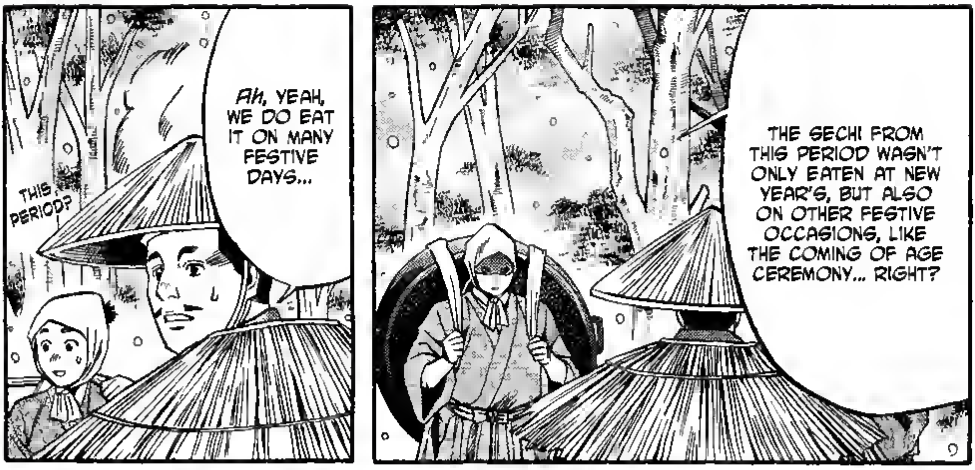
...Grr...

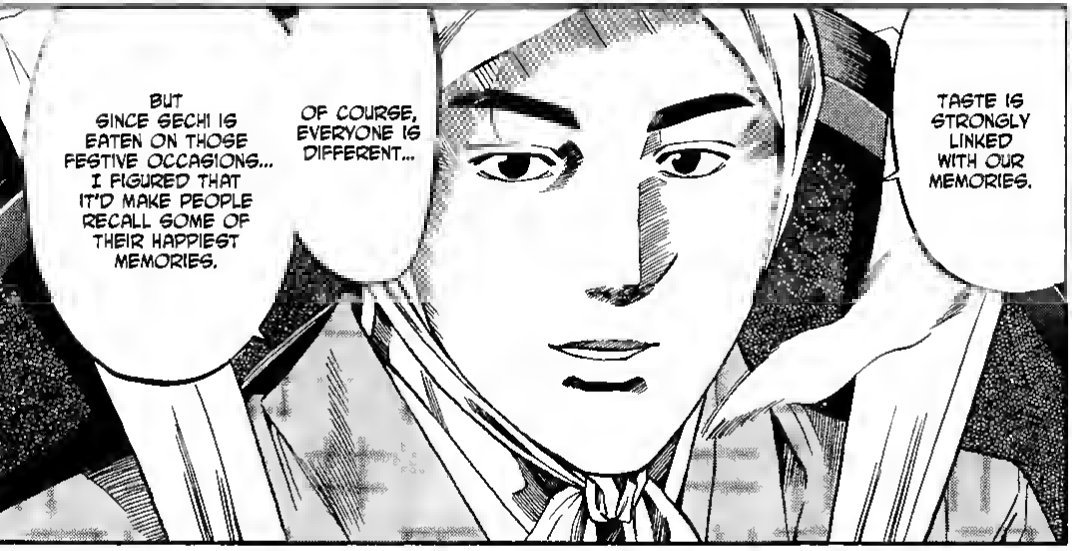

Hehehe, THAT IS BECAUSE WE HEARD ABOUT ECHIZEN'S SPECIALTIES BEFORE!


EH?
SO WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SECHI?

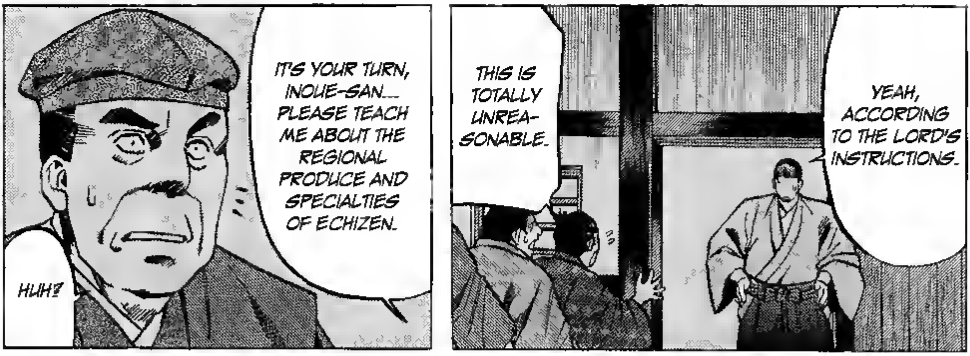
IT IS IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU FOLKS SERVE ODA-SAMA, WHO IS FROM GIFU, AND YET YOU ARE EXPERTS ON THE DISHES SERVED IN ECHIZEN!

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...?


THIS PERIOD?
AH, YEAH, WE DO EAT IT ON MANY FESTIVE DAYS...
THE SECHI FROM THIS PERIOD WASN'T ONLY EATEN AT NEW YEAR'S, BUT ALSO ON OTHER FESTIVE OCCASIONS, LIKE THE COMING OF AGE CEREMONY... RIGHT?

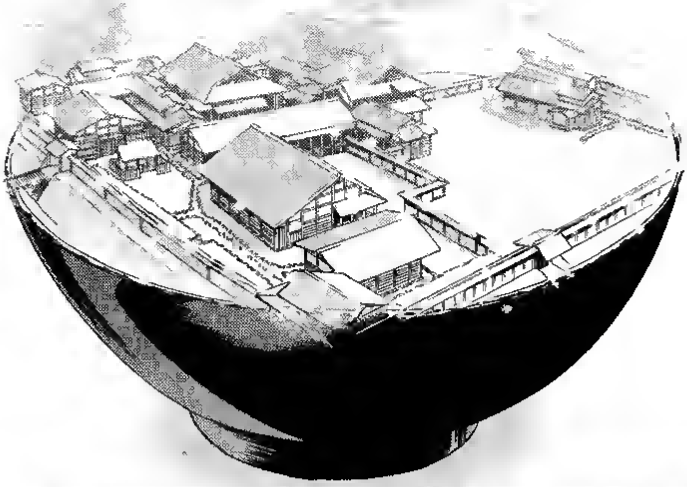

BUT SINCE SECHI IS EATEN ON THOSE FESTIVE OCCASIONS... I FIGURED THAT IT'D MAKE PEOPLE RECALL SOME OF THEIR HAPPIEST MEMORIES.
OF COURSE, EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT...
TASTE IS STRONGLY LINKED WITH OUR MEMORIES.

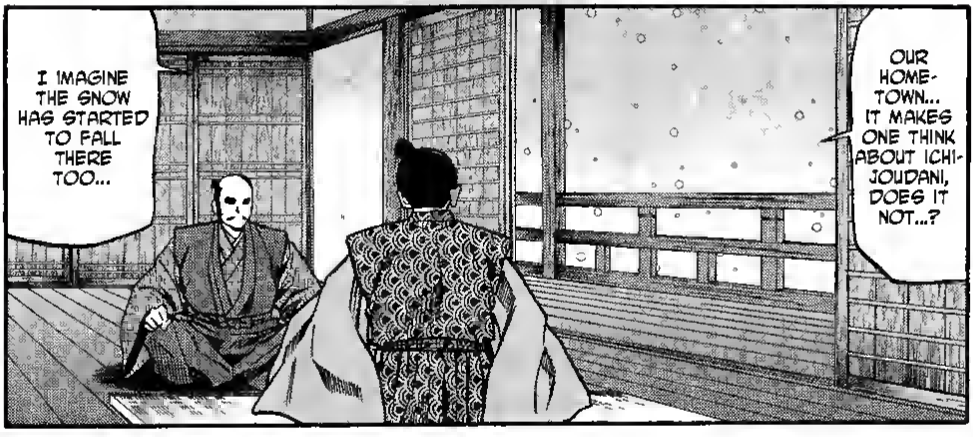
HE WANTS US TO REDO EVERYTHING DIFFERENTLY ?!
NIJOU CASTLE, SHOGUN'S PALACE

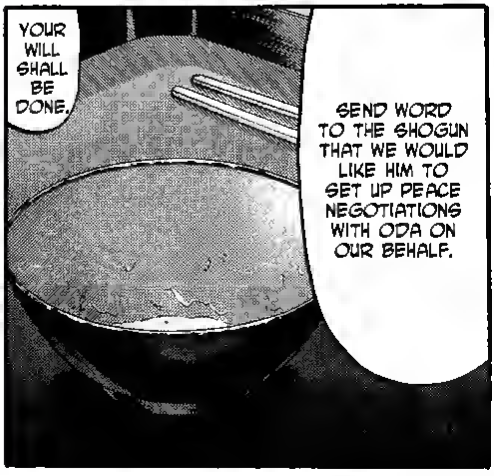

IT'S YOUR TURN, INOUE-SAN... PLEASE TEACH ME ABOUT THE REGIONAL PRODUCE AND SPECIALTIES OF ECHIZEN.
HUH?
THIS IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE.
YEAH, ACCORDING TO THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS.

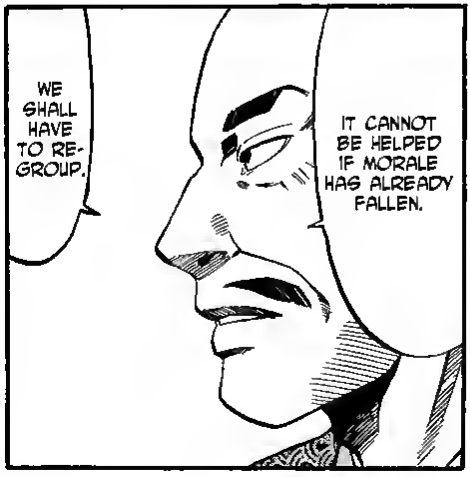
IF WE THINK OF THEIR FAMOUS FOODS... WELL, THERE WAS ONE TIME I HAD THEIR SECHI.
THEIR SPECIALTY PRODUCTS ARE CRAB AND MACKEREL...

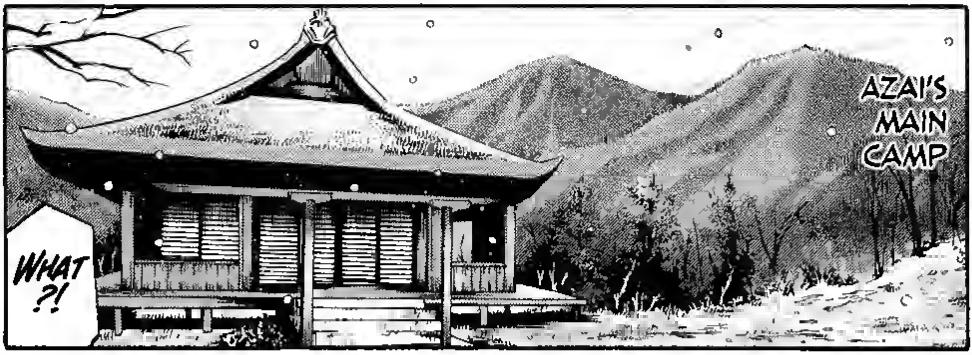
THE BOWL WAS SIMPLE LIKE THAT.
THEY USED UNTOASTED, ROUND RICE CAKES AND GARNISHED WITH DRIED BONITO FLAKES...
THEY MADE IT IN A MISO SOUP WITH THINLY SLICED TURNIP.




I IMAGINE THE SNOW HAS STARTED TO FALL THERE TOO...
OUR HOME-TOWN... IT MAKES ONE THINK ABOUT ICHI-JOUDANI, DOES IT NOT...?


YOUR WILL SHALL BE DONE.
SEND WORD TO THE SHOGUN THAT WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO SET UP PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ODA ON OUR BEHALF.


WE SHALL HAVE TO RE-GROUP.
IT CANNOT BE HELPED IF MORALE HAS ALREADY FALLEN.


AZAI'S MAIN CAMP
WHAT?!

AND THAT IT IS WISE FOR ENEMIES AND ALLIES ALIKE TO RETURN HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S AND GIVE AND RECEIVE BLESSINGS WITH THEIR FAMILY AND THEIR COUNTRYMEN.
YES, SIR. HE SAYS HE HAS LEARNED FROM THE ECHIZEN-ECHIGO WAR THAT ONCE THE SNOW BEGINS TO FALL, IT IS WISE TO REST FROM BATTLE...

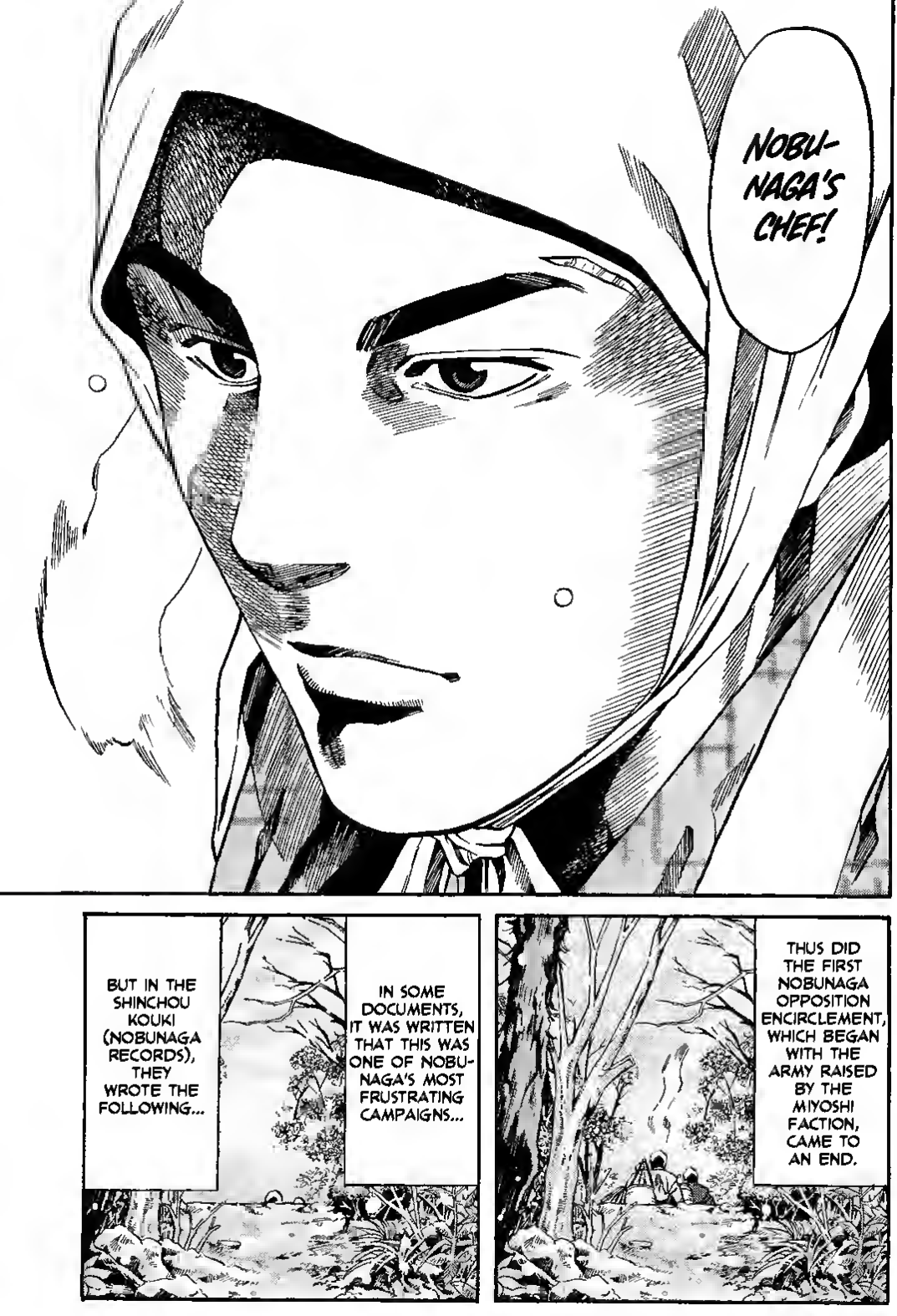
ASAKURA-DONO IS GOING TO DESCEND FROM MOUNT HIEI?!

OUR GENERAL-IN-COMMAND, ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE-SAMA, HAS ALREADY MADE HIS DECISION.

PLEASE RETHINK THIS MATTER...
PLEASE WAIT, SIR ENVOY...
IF THE ASAKURA FORCES LEAVE THIS MOUNTAIN, THEN WE TOO WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW SUIT.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE HAD DRIVEN NOBUNAGA INTO A CORNER, HE SLIPS AWAY SO EASILY.
WHAT AN UNRELIABLE ALLY!
ドロ
BLOODY HELL.....!
SFX: Slump
SOMETHING THAT IS FLOWING AGAINST THE MAIN STREAM OF EVENTS.
I ATTACK AND ATTACK, YET IT IS ALMOST AS IF SOME OTHER FORCE IS INTERFERING AND STEERING ME OFF COURSE.
THE MERCHANT... WAS HE BY ANY CHANCE A TALL MAN WITH LONG HAIR TIED BACK...?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A GROUP OF MERCHANTS FROM KATADA WHO CAME TO SELL SECHI.
FOR INSTANCE, DID A STRANGER APPEAR INSIDE THE WAR CAMP?
SIR ENVOY... RIGHT BEFORE YOSHIKAGE-DONO MADE HIS DECISION, DID ANYTHING OUT-OF-PLACE HAPPEN?
...WAIT...
I HAD THIS FEELING ONCE BEFORE...

SFX Slam
CHASE DOWN THAT MAN!
CAP-TURE HIM!
THAT IS AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION.
!!
IT IS THAT MAN!
MY LORD DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS?
SHIT, THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?!
NOT ONLY DID HE ESCAPE FROM KODANI CASTLE...
HE ALSO MEDDLED IN OUR BATTLE AT ANEGAWA...


NOBU-
NAGA'S
CHEF!
BUT IN THE SHINCHOU KOUKI (NOBUNAGA RECORDS), THEY WROTE THE FOLLOWING...
IN SOME DOCUMENTS, IT WAS WRITTEN THAT THIS WAS ONE OF NOBU-NAGA'S MOST FRUSTRATING CAMPAIGNS...
THUS DID THE FIRST NOBUNAGA OPPOSITION ENCIRCLEMENT, WHICH BEGAN WITH THE ARMY RAISED BY THE MIYOSHI FACTION, CAME TO AN END.

"ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER, NOBUNAGA BEGAN THE MARCH HOME THROUGH HEAVY SNOW. THE NEXT DAY, ON THE 17TH, THE ARMY ARRIVED IN GIFU."
"IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, BUT THE FACT THAT IT CAME TO SUCH A TIDY END ALSO BEARS WITNESS TO NOBUNAGA'S SKILL AS A COMMANDER..."

"IT WAS WORTHY OF CELEBRATION."

Food from the Warring States Period

Column

Text and recipe by Nishimura Mitsuru

If you want to understand the importance of military rations, you should read about the Battle of Iwo Jima, which occurred towards the end of the Pacific War on the isle of Iwo in the Ogasawara Islands. The Japanese army's supply ships tried to approach the island during a lull in air raids, but were sunk by enemy submarines while the island was right before their eyes. The enemy's objective was to cut off the Japanese army's supply lines. In other words, they were employing starvation tactics. At the end of 1944, the rations were reduced to prolong the time they would last: three meals became two, then two became one, and eventually zero. As days of starvation ensued, it was Hell on Earth. It's said that the soldiers remaining on the island would eat anything. They ate the fruits and nuts of plants they didn't know and any roots they could forage—the leaves, stalks, and roots of the papaya trees, the bugs that were attracted by dung, the bugs that crawled over the rocks by the seashore, etc.

The only drinking water was the salty and sulfurous water of Iwo's spring. This water would eventually cause violent diarrhea and fever and damage the body. In contrast, the American army was equipped with water distillation equipment and abundant, varied combat rations, such as canned food. The following is quoted from *A Courageous Soldier's Resolve*: "Treat food and water rations wisely for supply will stop under bombardment." In other words, the supply lines will be cut off, and with them food and water, so fight through this on courage and guts alone! It's far too cruel... We should stop for a second and appreciate the present world we live in, where we can obtain any ingredient known to man as long as we have the money. While I think how happy we should be to live in this present, I also feel grateful to the thought and determination of all the people who have become the pillars of Japan's modern society.

Recipe

Mushrooms and chestnuts in a thick sauce served over rice

Ingredients

1c of rice / 8 mushrooms (maitake, shimeji, shiitake, etc.) / 8 chestnuts (boiled) / half a stalk of green onion / 300c of mushroom stalk / 1 tbsp of preferred cooking oil / 2 tbsp of amazura (or mirin to substitute) / potato starch to taste / rice / 1c of water

1. Dice the mushrooms to your preference. Put the stalks into a pot with water and boil mushroom stalk.

2. Saute the green onion, diced, in a pot with the cooking oil. When browned, add the mushrooms and continue to pan saute. Then add the mushroom stalk and chestnuts, cut in half and simmer.

3. Mix potato starch with the water to thicken it. Salt to taste, and then add to the sauce and serve over rice.

Some Extra Tips

1. If you don't have boiled chestnuts, then one thing you can do is boil marron glacés to remove the sugar coating and use the result.

2. If you add soy sauce, it tastes better. But you should not use it as it is not Warring States Period food.

T/N: Nishimura-sensei lists his historical sources for the manga at the bottom of the page, but as you're reading a scanlation and thus are unlikely to delve into Japanese Warring States Period history books, I took the liberty of omitting this